

# THE MINUTES OF THE CANADIAN PRESBYTERY

*Associate Reformed Presbyterian Churches in Canada,  
Associate Reformed Presbyterian Synod*

## **Stated Spring Meeting**

April 3 - 4, 2014

Grace Presbyterian Church  
Woodstock, Ontario



**Rev. John Shearouse**  
Moderator

**Mr. Bill McKay**  
Stated Clerk

## **OFFICERS OF THE CANADIAN PRESBYTERY**

### **MODERATOR**

(1 yr. Term expires June 30, 2014)

Rev. John Shearouse  
71 Fraser Rd.  
Timberlea, NS  
B3T 1J4

### **VICE MODERATOR**

(1 yr. Term expires June 30, 2014)

Mr. Dave Alexander  
5 Dustan St.  
Dartmouth, NS  
B2Y 3T5

### **STATED CLERK**

(3 yr. Term expires June 30, 2016)

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

### **READING CLERK**

(3 yr. Term expires June 30, 2016)

Rev. Brian Murray  
405134 Beaconsfield Rd.  
Burgessville, ON, Canada  
N0J 1C0

### **TREASURER**

(3 yr. Term expires June 30, 2016)

Mr. Gary Armstrong  
7 Kipling Dr.  
Woodstock, ON, Canada  
N4S 3C8

## **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

Faith ARP Mission

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**MINUTES OF THE CANADIAN PRESBYTERY,  
ASSOCIATE REFORMED PRESBYTERIAN CHURCHES IN CANADA,  
ARP GENERAL SYNOD  
STATED SPRING MEETING – April 3-4, 2014  
Grace Presbyterian Church  
Woodstock, Ontario**

The 2014 Stated Spring Meeting of the Canadian Presbytery was held on April 3-4, 2014 and hosted by the Grace Presbyterian Congregation (Woodstock, Ontario). Sixteen (16) presbyters were in attendance for this meeting of presbytery.

**Thursday – April 3, 2014**

The delegates for presbytery gathered for the 2014 Stated Spring Meeting of the Canadian Presbytery. It is by God's grace and under His blessing that we gather as a court of His church. We give praise to God from whom all blessings flow.

**Presbytery Convenes for 2014 Stated Spring Meeting**

The Moderator of the Canadian Presbytery (2013/14), Rev. John Shearouse called the presbyters to order at 9:39 a.m. and convened the 2014 Stated Spring Meeting of the Canadian Presbytery. Rev. Shearouse constituted the meeting of the Canadian Presbytery as a court of the church of Jesus Christ, with a reading from scripture (John 2:13-22) and prayer.

**Greetings from the Host Congregation**

On behalf of the congregation of Grace Presbyterian Church, Rev. Jeff Kingswood extended warmest greetings and salutations to the presbyters and guests of the Canadian Presbytery.

**Calling of the Roll**

The Stated Clerk called the roll of presbyters for this stated meeting. The following members of the presbytery were in attendance.

<u>CHURCH</u>	<u>MINISTER</u>	<u>RULING ELDER</u>
<b><u>Maritime Region</u></b>		
Grace Fellowship ARP	Absent	ABSENT
Covenant Reformed Presbyterian	Rev. John Shearouse	ABSENT
Covenanters ARP	Rev. Kevin Carter	Peter Lindsay
Mt. Zion ARP	Rev. Andrew Savill	ABSENT
Trinity Presbyterian Church	Rev. Jonathan Cowan (Stated Supply)	Mike Flewelling
<b><u>Ontario Region</u></b>		
Reformed Hungarian ARP	Vacant	Frank Kovacs Sr.
Riverside ARP	Rev. Jerry Hamstra	Greig Park
Grace Presbyterian	Rev. Jeff Kingswood (Senior) Rev. Brian Murray (Associate)	Ken Turner
Faith ARP Mission	Rev. Stephen Richardson (Mission Developer)	ABSENT
Trinity ARP	Rev. Henry Bartsch	Henry Van Til
<b><u>Other Ministers of the Canadian Presbytery</u></b>		<b><u>Officers of the Court</u></b>
Rev. Rudy de Vries		Bill McKay
Dr. William VanDoodewaard		
Rev. William Campbell		

Rev. Rick Barnes, Rev. William Campbell and Dr. Frank Kovacs were not present and sent their regrets regarding their absence from the 2014 Stated Spring Meeting. Dr. Kovacs is planning on attending during the Friday Sederunt.

Grace Fellowship Church, Covenant Reformed Presbyterian Church, Mt. Zion ARP Church and Faith ARP Mission were not represented with Ruling Elders at this meeting.

The Stated Clerk declared a quorum was present.

### **Introduction of Guests and Visitors**

The following people were in attendance to these meetings: Rev. Scott Wilkinson (RPCNA), Steve Nichols (Director of Gift Planning – ARP Foundation), Rev. John Ferguson (OPC), Neil Stewart (OPC), Zoltan Nagy, Iwan Baumann, John Rood, John Nyman, Andrew VanDykshorn, Dr. Ben Short, Alex Beard, Jennifer Hovestadt, Pol Nagy and Tibor Lacko.

### **Greetings from Fraternal Delegates**

- **Motion:** To grant “Privilege of the Floor” to Rev. Scott Wilkinson (RPCNA) and Rev. John Ferguson (OPC) so that they may bring greetings to the presbytery. **M/S/C**

The presbytery received greetings from Rev. John Ferguson (OPC) and Rev. Scott Wilkinson (RPCNA).

### **Report of the Moderator (Rev. John Shearouse)**

#### **1. Presentation and Approval of the Docket**

- **Motion:** to adopt the docket as presented. **M/S/C**

#### **2. Appointment of the Moderator’s Committees**

Rev. Shearouse appointed Andrew Savill and Peter Lindsay to serve on the Moderator’s Committee for Excuses and Resolutions.

### **Report of the Stated Clerk (Bill McKay)**

#### **1. Approval of the Minutes of Presbytery**

- **Motion:** To approve the Minutes of Presbytery for the September 26-27, 2013 (Stated Fall Meeting) as distributed. **M/S/C**

#### **2. Report on meeting of the Executive Council**

a) The Executive Council met by teleconference at a Called Meeting on October 22, 2013 to discuss a situation that has developed at Reformed Hungarian ARP in Toronto.

- **Motion:** To move into Executive Session. **M/S/C**

In returning to the Regular Session of Presbytery, it is reported that the Moderator’s Committee to investigate the situation has been dissolved with thanksgiving and praise to God for His work in reconciliation.

#### **3. Report on Correspondence Received**

##### **a) Correspondence from Lynwood and Joan Young**

The presbytery has received a letter of complaint from Lynwood and Joan Young of

Moncton, NB. They are protesting a decision by the Mt. Zion Provisional Session to place them under discipline for violation of their vows of membership.

- **Motion:** To refer this letter of complaint to the Stewardship/Congregational Life Committee for their investigation and for them to report back to presbytery during this meeting with the results of their deliberations. **M/S/C**

b) **Second Presbytery and Dr. Jay Adams**

The Stated Clerk has contacted Second Presbytery as to what decision they have made regarding dealing with Dr. Jay Adams and his position on the Lord's Day which runs counter to our Denominational Standards. There has been no response from their Minister and His Work Committee at this time and he will continue to follow that up.

c) **Invitation for a Fraternal Delegate**

We have been issued an invitation to send a Fraternal Delegate to the Michigan/Ontario Presbytery OPC Meeting on April 26, 2014 in Fremont, MI.

- **Motion:** To approve Rev. Henry Bartsch to serve as the Fraternal Delegate to the Michigan/Ontario Presbytery OPC meeting on April 26, 2014. **M/S/C**

d) **Revised Form of Government**

- **Motion:** To approve the Revised Form of Government for the Associate Reformed Presbyterian Church. **M/S/C**

Ken Turner led the presbytery in prayer before the vote.

The recorded vote is as follows: Yes - 15; No - 0; Abstain – 2

These results of this vote will be conveyed to the Principal Clerk (Rev. Ron Beard) of the ARP General Synod.

e) **Implementation of Committee Record Keeping**

In consultation with the moderator, it has been noticed that there is a lack of accurate record keeping within the structure of the Standing Committees of the Canadian Presbytery. This makes it difficult for the continuity of committee work whenever new members and (more importantly) new committee chairmen take over. To facilitate that, the clerk has purchased binders for the committees and they will be in the possession of the chairmen of the committees.

f) **Submitting Annual Reports**

All of the congregations of the Associate Reformed Presbyterian Church are instructed every year to submit Annual Statistical Reports to both the Synod Office and to the Stated Clerks of the presbyteries. They are also instructed to complete and submit an information form for the year to the Stated Clerk. These forms are to be submitted no later than February 1 every year. Every year, the majority of these reports are not received by the clerk until April 1 and then only after a great deal of urging by the clerk to make sure these forms are filed. The clerk explained to the presbytery that he has to assemble and copy these reports and then send them to the committees which are charged with inspecting these reports and then reporting the results of their

inspections to the Spring Presbytery meeting. The congregations need to ensure that copies of both of these reports are sent to the clerk.

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

**The presbytery recessed for Standing Committee Meetings and Lunch.**

**The presbytery observed the Order of the Day at 2:30 p.m**

**COMMITTEE REPORTS**

**STEWARDSHIP AND CONGREGATIONAL LIFE (Peter Lindsay)**

1. **Report on ARP Women's Ministry (See Appendix 1)**

- **Motion:** To grant Privilege of the Floor to Miss Jennifer Hovestadt so that she may address the court on behalf of the ARP Women's Ministry. **M/S/C**

Miss Hovestadt addressed the court and gave a report as to what has transpired over the past year with the ARP Women's Ministry.

2. **ARP Foundation**

The committee met with Mr. Steve Nichols and further discussed his work with the ARP Foundation and how that type of work may be implemented in Canada. The committee is asking Gary Armstrong to work with Mr. Nichols to investigate possibilities with the implementation of any idea for a foundation in Canada.

3. **Church Historian**

The committee reported that Mrs. Melissa Murray has agreed to take on the role of Church Historian for the Canadian Presbytery. She will be involved with the collection, research and compilation of a history of the Canadian Presbytery, its congregations and organisations and to maintain a journal of significant happenings and events.

4. **Board of Directors Agent**

The committee had created the position of a Board of Directors Agent last year. After meeting today, the committee finds that the position is redundant due to Canadian tax laws and has dissolved the position.

The committee is also recommending that the Manual of Procedure be amended with the removal of CHPT. VII, PART D (Board of Directors), Art. 2 (d) through (g) (inclusive).

**Article 2**

**Duties:**

- To receive and/or transfer real property on behalf of the Presbytery.
  - To enter into purchasing and/or selling property on behalf of the Presbytery.
  - To issue or receive mortgages on behalf of the Presbytery.
  - ~~To be thoroughly familiar with the A.R.P.C. "Form of Government" as it applies to church property.~~
  - ~~To see that each particular church has a registered deed.~~
  - ~~To encourage local churches to secure a safe deposit box for housing of "official copies" of deeds.~~
  - ~~To keep abreast of liability issues which may concern the Presbytery and her Mission churches.~~
- **Motion:** To remove language from the Manual of Procedure - CHPT. VII, PART G (Board of Directors), Art. 2 (d) through (g) (inclusive). **M/S/C**

This amendment to the Manual of Procedure is now received as the 1<sup>st</sup> reading.

5. Transition for Industry Canada

The committee received a report from Gary Armstrong and where we are in application for Transition to the new guidelines for Industry Canada. The transition is to be completed by October 17, 2014.

6. Treasurer's Report (See Appendices 2 & 3)

The Financial Report for 2013 (year-end) and the Financial Report for 2014 (to March 31, 2014) was presented for information only.

7. Pakistan Mission Assistance

The committee has received a letter requesting financial assistance to help support Bill and Janet McKay as they begin to embark on a planned ministry to the Islamic Republic of Pakistan. This mission work is in conjunction with and under the auspices of World Witness. They will be working in two areas of the mission. Janet will be acting as a Clinical Nursing Educator at the Christian Hospital in Sahiwal, Pakistan. Bill will be working with the Mission Field Director (Andrew Howard) to oversee the organization and maintenance of all Mission Property documents, work in legal matters pertaining to the Mission and possibly mentor and assist the Pakistani ARP (synod and presbyteries) on issues that arise from church governance.

- **Motion:** That the Canadian Presbytery will reimburse the McKay family for the airfare to Pakistan in 2014 from the Denominational Ministry Fund up to maximum cost of \$9,000. **M/S/C**

8. Bursary for Rev. Jonathan Cowan

We have received a request to supply Rev. Jonathan Cowan with funds to help with his scholarship costs.

- **Motion:** To grant a \$2,000 student bursary to Rev. Jonathan Cowan. **M/S/C**

9. Treasurer

- **Motion:** That the Presbytery expresses gratitude and encouragement to Gary Armstrong for his labours as the Presbytery treasurer. **M/S/C**

**OUTREACH CANADA (Rev. Rudy de Vries)**

1. Kingston, ON Church Plant

The committee met with Iwan Baawmann and interviewed him as a possible candidate for church planter in Kingston, ON

2. Faith ARP Mission – Tillsonburg, ON (See Appendix 4)

Rev. Steve Richardson presented a brief report on the work that is ongoing in Tillsonburg. They are seeing encouragement in their work and striving to see the growth of the church to be faithful to their calling.

- **Motion:** That Rev. Henry Bartsch is excused as the Interim Moderator of the Provisional Session; and further, that Rev. Steve Richardson is appointed to serve as the Moderator



of the Provisional Session of Faith ARP Mission. M/S/C

- **Motion:** To add another member to the Provisional Session, either Simon Oosterhof or John Rood. M/S/C

3. Fundraising for Church Planting

The committee has discussed how to inform the presbytery of their 5 year need and how we can raise funds. Outreach Canada is seeking to establish a sub-committee or team with the necessary skill set for both fund raising and church planting awareness in the presbytery. The rationale behind this is that first of all, our country needs Reformed Churches to be planted, and secondly our current church planting funds will be used up within one and half years. In order to have a long term, sustainable fund to support church planting we need consistent fundraising and awareness.

We plan to recruit an ad hoc board or team to lead the presbytery to give us a vision for church planting creating communications, connections, prayer groups, and recruit church planters. This team will contact the churches of the Presbytery to seek a meeting with each session to cast the vision and encourage greater funding for Canadian church planting.

4. Rev. Rudy de Vries update

Rev. Rudy de Vries gave an update regarding his ministry with Redemption Prison Ministry. He noted that since the Kingston Penitentiary has closed, he has been able to access the Millhaven Penitentiary. He is also joyful for the number of men who are growing in their faith and boldly living it out in prison.

RECESS

At 4:20 p.m. Rev. Shearouse declared a recess for this session of presbytery. The presbytery assembled for a time of prayer.

DINNER

At 5:00 pm the presbytery met for dinner.

Service of Worship

**The presbyters and friends of the Canadian Presbytery gathered together again at 7:30 p.m. (April 3, 2014), for a service of worship. Rev. John Shearouse presided over the service. Rev. Jonathan Cowan began the service with the Opening Prayer and Rev. Andrew Savill presented God's Word to the congregation from 1Samuel 18:1-16; 19:1-5 and 2Timothy 4:9-22. The theme for his sermon was "Standing Together in Ministry". A time of fellowship followed the worship service.**

Friday, April 4, 2014

At 8:35 a.m., the Presbytery gathered in the sanctuary for worship. Dr. Frank Kovacs presided at this service and led the presbytery in prayer and worship. Rev. Jonathan Cowan brought the Word of God to the presbytery as he preached from Mark 2: 13-17 (The Calling of Levi).

Presbytery Re-Convenes

At 10:00 a.m., following the worship service, Rev. Shearouse called the presbytery to order and re-convened the 2014 Stated Spring Meeting of the Canadian Presbytery with prayer.

**Calling of the Roll**

The clerk declared a quorum was present.

**Introduction of Guests and Visitors**

Rev. Curt Van Dyken (Cambridge OCRC).

**New Business****Book of Discipline Revision (Rev. Kevin Carter)**

Rev. Carter reported on the ongoing work of the revision of the Book of Discipline. At present, the work is going to take longer than was originally anticipated. Last year, the sessions of the synod all received draft version of the proposed revision to study and put forward any suggestions they could see for changes. The committee received over 1,200 recommendations for changes. One of the reasons to revise the Book of Discipline is to make it easier to use by the local sessions as they have struggled with it in the past due to its complexities. The committee is wondering if there is a way to make it more pastoral in its tone rather than accusatory (as it now reads) so the committee is now “revising the revision” (in actuality a total rewriting). The idea is to make more of a “grand jury” style of investigation before any judgement is offered rather than the criminal court style it now employs. The committee feels this is more biblical and pastoral in its approach. The committee is planning on meeting pre-synod this year at Bonclarken on the Tuesday at noon to discuss and explain their direction.

**MINISTER AND HIS WORK/NOMINATIONS COMMITTEE REPORT (Dr. William VanDoodewaard)**  
**(SEE REPORT)**1. Review of Rev. Jonathan Cowan’s sermon

- **Motion:** To accept the sermon presented this morning as the second sermon that he is required towards his transfer. **M/S/C**

Rev. Savill offered prayer for Rev. Cowan.

2. Reports from Ministers serving out of bounds

- **Dr. Bill VanDoodewaard:** Dr. VanDoodewaard gave an oral report to the Presbytery. He is working with an exploratory church plant in Grand Rapids, MI which is under the auspices of North-east Presbytery. There is a possibility that he may be asked to take the position of Stated Supply or Interim Moderator. He has been counselled to take care and watch his time that he is not overextended. Prayer was offered for Dr. VanDoodewaard.
- **Rev. Frank Kovacs:** He is currently serving as a Teaching Assistant for one Masters Student through the Greenwich School of Theology and is a visiting scholar at the University of Toronto which allows him to do research there. He is still looking for a full teaching position in a seminary. He has been encouraged to find a home church that is strong in reformed theology. Prayer was offered for Dr. Kovacs.

3. Review of Annual Statistical Reports for 2013

The Annual Statistical reports were reviewed and accepted.

4. Iwan Baamann

The committee met with and interviewed Mr. Baamann as a potential candidate to serve as a mission developer/church planter in Kingston, ON.

5. Nominations for General Synod Boards and Agencies

Brian Murray noted the yearly request to remember that synod boards and agencies need positions filled and that the various sessions should consider this matter and keep this in their prayers to find people to fill these positions.

6. Board of Directors

We are required to have a named Board of Directors for the presbytery. The recommendation is that the Executive Committee of the presbytery will serve as the permanent Board of Directors.

- **Motion:** That the Executive Committee plus the Treasurer (this would include Bill McKay, John Shearouse, Brian Murray, Rick Barnes and Gary Armstrong) will serve as the permanent Board of Directors of the Canadian Presbytery. **M/S/C**

7. Moderator 2014/15

- **Motion:** That Rev. Henry Bartsch (Trinity ARP Church, Chatham, ON) is accepted by acclamation to the office of Moderator of the Canadian Presbytery for 2014/15. **M/S/C**

8. Vice-moderator 2014/15

Rev. Henry Bartsch put forward the name of Ken Turner to serve as Vice-Moderator of the Canadian Presbytery for 2014/15.

- **Motion:** To confirm Ken Turner as Vice-Moderator of the Canadian Presbytery for 2014/15. **M/S/C**

7. Standing Committees

- **Motion:** To extend the terms of the Standing Committee members by 1 year to be reviewed at the 2015 Stated Spring meeting. **M/S/C**
- **Motion:** To adopt the report as a whole. **M/S/C**

**UNFINISHED BUSINESS**

**STEWARDSHIP AND CONGREGATIONAL LIFE (Peter Lindsay)**

11. Letter of Complaint from Lynwood and Joan Young (Mt. Zion)

The committee reviewed the letter of complaint and spoke with Rev. Andrew Savill to investigate. After deliberation, the committee finds that the provisional session acted properly in their implementation of discipline in the case and that there is no basis for the complaint. The committee is recommending that a letter be written to the Young family explaining to them that they cannot just “resign” their membership, refuse to speak with the session after doing so and then complain after the fact about discipline being administered. In addition it will be noted that they are accountable to the local session until such time as they transfer their membership to another evangelical church (by action of the session) or that they are removed or expelled from membership (by action of the session).

- **Motion:** That the presbytery gives permission to the Stewardship/Congregational Life Committee to write a pastoral letter to Lynwood and Joan Young to explain the findings of the court. **M/S/C**

12. Review of Annual Statistical Forms

The Annual Reports were reviewed and there was nothing found to be out of order.

13. Session Minutes to be Examined

The 2013 Session Minutes from Grace Presbyterian Church, Trinity ARP Church, Riverside ARP Church, Reformed Hungarian ARP Church and Faith ARP Mission were received and examined according to the Form of Government.

- **Motion:** to receive and approve the minutes from Grace Presbyterian Church, Riverside ARP Church, Trinity ARP Church, Reformed Hungarian ARP Church and Faith ARP Church. **M/S/C**

14. Churches without Pastors

a) Trinity Presbyterian Church (Woodstock, NB)

The committee met with Mr. Mike Flewelling to discuss the situation at Trinity Presbyterian Church (Woodstock, NB).

b) Reformed Hungarian ARP

The committee also met with Mr. Frank Kovacs Sr. who reported that they are continuing their search for a new pastor.

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

**OUTREACH CANADA (Rev. Rudy de Vries)**

5. Redemption Prison Ministry

Redemption Prison Ministry has a need for thirty-seven instructors. The presbytery is encouraged to make the congregations aware of this need. Jennifer Hovestadt is currently grading lessons for these thirty-seven inmates and desperately needs help as this is not in her normal job category.

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

Prayer was offered at this time for the churches without pastors and for the discipline issues at Mt. Zion.

**New Business**

Rev. Henry Bartsch spoke regarding an issue of desiring to have an understanding on the confessional position on church membership and whether subscription to the Westminster Standards is biblically required for church membership.

- **Motion:** *“That Presbytery (through a moderator appointed committee) write a biblical, theological, and confessional study on church membership, and (in particular) address if subscription to the Westminster standards is biblically required for church members. This study is to be presented at the spring meeting of Presbytery in 2015.”* **M/S/C**

At the request of the Presbytery, the Moderator formed a Moderator’s Committee for Theological and Social Concerns to study this matter. The members of the committee are Rev. Henry Bartsch, Rev. Andrew Savill, Rev. Brian Murray, Dr. Frank Kovacs, John Moerman and Rev. John Shearouse (as nominated by Rev. Henry Bartsch).

**REPORTS OF MODERATOR'S COMMITTEE**

1. Excuses and Absences

Excuses for Absence with excuse from Rev. Rick Barnes and Dr. Frank Kovacs were received and approved.

2. Resolutions

The following motion from the Excuses and Resolutions Committee:

- **Motion:** *Be it resolved that Grace Presbyterian Church receive our heartfelt thanks for their kind hospitality in hosting the members of the presbytery and their families and also for their warm fellowship during the evening service of worship. M/S/C*

This resolution will be conveyed to the congregation of Grace Presbyterian Church.

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

**DATES & LOCATIONS OF FUTURE MEETINGS OF THE CANADIAN PRESBYTERY (D.V.)**

**September 25-26, 2014:** Trinity ARP Church, Woodstock, NB

**April 9-10, 2015:** Reformed Hungarian Church ARP, Toronto, ON

**ADJOURNMENT/ ANNOUNCEMENTS – CLOSING PRAYER AND BENEDICTION**

Rev. John Shearouse prayed and gave the benediction. The court adjourned at 11:45 a.m. with the singing of Psalm 133.

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

Respectfully submitted and attested by:

Mr. Bill McKay  
Stated Clerk

Rev. John Shearouse  
Moderator

**APPENDIX 1 (April/14)**

April 3, 2014

Stewardship Committee

Gentlemen,

Thank you for the opportunity to serve again as the Canadian Representative for the Women's Ministry Board.

There have been a few things going on over the last year, some very encouraging and some more tiresome.

In July I attended the Annual Meeting at Bon Clarcken. It was wonderful to be surrounded by likeminded women and be encouraged to be more active in the church. I spent some time talking with the Board members from Tennessee/Alabama in regards to the 'informality' of the Canadian Church view of Women's Ministry. They have been very discouraged by the lack of response from the younger generation and the frustration of change from the older generation. In my talking with them, I shared how the Canadian churches don't formally have a Women's Ministry and that the churches work together as a whole. There may be a separate ladies' Bibles study, but most of the churches do Bible study together. There are sometimes separate events (like the Ontario Ladies' Retreat or baby/wedding showers) but most things are done with the whole church.

This was taken very well by the Executive Board and the Tennessee/Alabama Board. They were going to be talking with the ladies from the different churches and seeing how they can work this out. I also emphasized the importance of being under the care of the local presbytery and not being something separate from the rest of the church. I hope to hear soon how this is working out.

In February the ladies from Trinity in Chatham hosted the Ontario Ladies' Retreat. A number of concerns came up in the planning and execution of this retreat. Three years ago I talked to the Congregational Life Committee about planning the retreats and I was going to take a more active role in the planning of the retreats as the speaker/topic/execution left something to be desired. Because of some medical complications I did not participate in the planning of this past retreat and there were some disappointments (in the speaker and topic in particular). I will be working (and have already started) with the ladies from Oxford County (Woodstock & Tillsonburg) in planning the next conference. In their first planning meeting some thing came up that I said that I would mention to the Stewardship Committee and get your counsel on this.

Along with the Congregational Life Committee in the Spring of 2011, the purpose of the Ontario Ladies' Retreats was established "**So that the women of the ARP denomination have an opportunity to meet and have fellowship together, helping to build unity between the churches**". The attendees are "**Because the purpose of this retreat is for the**

**women of the ARP denomination to meet and have fellowship, the retreat is for women from ARP church.”**

In the planning for the Spring 2014 retreat, it was brought up again that there were a few ladies who felt that this was too exclusive and we should be able to open the retreat up to family, friends, neighbours and other churches. This has something that has come up over the last 3 years and some of the ladies are not attending the retreat because of this. I have had a number of conversations with the Congregational Life Committee about this in the past and we decided that the purpose statement, at that time, should remain.

This has come up again in a survey done by Grace for the 2015 retreat. Most of the women said that they didn't want the retreat opened to everyone as the dynamics of the retreat change when it is open to others outside the church. It has been suggested that if the local churches want to come together to plan something to open to their friends and neighbours, that that would be a different event from the ladies retreat.

This is something that continues to come up from a few people every year, so your counsel on this that would be greatly appreciated.

Thank you for the opportunity to serve the churches.

Jennifer Hovestadt

**APPENDIX 2 (April/14)**

<b>Treasurer's Report</b>						
<b>for the period ending December 31, 2013</b>						
	Expense Fund	Denominational Ministry Fund		Canadian Church Development Trust	Total All Funds	Total All Funds
	<u>Actual</u>	<u>Actual</u>	<u>Actual</u>	<u>Actual</u>	<u>2013</u>	<u>2012</u>
<b>RECEIPTS</b>						
Covenant Reformed	\$ 1,300.00	\$ 400.00		\$ 3,400.00	\$ 5,100.00	\$ 1,700.00
Covenanters	1,000.00	200.00		2,700.00	3,900.00	-
Grace Fellowship, NS	600.00	250.00		250.00	1,100.00	2,950.00
Grace Presbyterian, ON	-	-		-	-	6,759.49
Mount Zion	1,336.91	-		-	1,336.91	-
Reformed Hungarian	-	-		-	-	750.00
Riverside	1,500.00	150.00		6,757.00	8,407.00	33,635.65
Trinity Chatham, ON	1,000.00	200.00		1,000.00	2,200.00	2,200.00
Trinity Woodstock, NB	200.00	-		2,000.00	2,200.00	2,200.00
Interest	<u>882.80</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>882.80</u>	<u>959.68</u>
<b>TOTAL RECEIPTS</b>	<u>7,819.71</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>1,200.00</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>16,107.00</u>	<u>-</u>
					<u>25,126.71</u>	<u>51,154.82</u>
<b>DISBURSEMENTS</b>						
		<b>Budget</b>			<b>Budget</b>	
Church plants - Kingston	-	-	-	1,041.74	7,500.00	1,041.74
Church plants - Tillsonburg	-	-	-	45,614.95	55,000.00	45,614.95
Computer	-	-	-	-	-	-
Travel	1,854.45	3,000.00	-	-	-	1,854.45
Moderator/Clerk Travel	-	2,000.00	-	-	-	-
Telephone, teleconference calls	985.68	500.00	-	-	-	985.68
Treasurer's Work, Postage, Bank Chgs, Office	136.87	750.00	-	-	-	136.87
Student Bursaries & Expenses	-	4,000.00	-	-	-	-
Internship	-	-	-	-	-	-
Miscellaneous	-	-	-	-	-	-
<b>TOTAL DISBURSEMENTS</b>	<u>2,977.00</u>	<u>10,250.00</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>46,656.69</u>	<u>62,500.00</u>	<u>49,633.69</u>
<b>Excess - Receipts over Disbursements</b>	4,842.71	<u>\$ (10,250.00)</u>	1,200.00	<u>\$ -</u>	<u>(30,549.69)</u>	<u>\$ (62,500.00)</u>
					<u>(24,506.98)</u>	<u>33,859.45</u>
Bank and Investments - January 1	<u>17,287.35</u>		<u>35,971.16</u>	<u>157,546.15</u>	<u>210,804.66</u>	<u>176,945.21</u>
Bank and Investments - Current	<u>\$ 22,130.06</u>		<u>\$ 37,171.16</u>	<u>\$ 126,996.46</u>	<u>\$ 186,297.68</u>	<u>\$ 210,804.66</u>
<b>Represented by:</b>						
Bank Balance					\$ 42,169.83	\$ 67,737.62
Investment Certificates					<u>144,127.85</u>	<u>143,067.04</u>
Total Funds					<u>\$ 186,297.68</u>	<u>\$ 210,804.66</u>



**APPENDIX 3 (April/14)**

<b>Associate Reformed Presbyterian Churches in Canada</b>						
<b>Treasurer's Report</b>						
<b>for the period ending March 31, 2014</b>						
	Expense Fund	Denominational Ministry Fund		Canadian Church Development Trust	Total All Funds	Total All Funds
	<u>Actual</u>	<u>Actual</u>	<u>Actual</u>	<u>Actual</u>	<u>2014</u>	<u>2013</u>
<b>RECEIPTS</b>						
Covenant Reformed	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 5,100.00
Covenanters	-	-	-	-	-	3,900.00
Grace Fellowship, NS	-	-	-	-	-	1,100.00
Grace Presbyterian, ON	2,500.00	500.00	5,236.05	8,236.05	-	-
Mount Zion	-	-	-	-	-	1,336.91
Reformed Hungarian	-	-	-	-	-	-
Riverside	1,700.00	150.00	-	1,850.00	-	8,407.00
Trinity Chatham, ON	1,000.00	200.00	1,000.00	2,200.00	-	2,200.00
Trinity Woodstock, NB	-	-	-	-	-	2,200.00
Interest	-	-	-	-	-	882.80
<b>TOTAL RECEIPTS</b>	<u>5,200.00</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>850.00</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>6,236.05</u>	<u>-</u>
					<u>12,286.05</u>	<u>25,126.71</u>
<b>DISBURSEMENTS</b>		<b>Budget</b>			<b>Budget</b>	
Church plants - Kingston	-	-	-	-	1,000.00	1,041.74
Church plants - Tillsonburg	-	-	-	28,659.12	28,500.00	45,614.95
Computer	-	-	-	-	-	-
Travel	-	3,000.00	-	-	-	1,854.45
Moderator/Clerk Travel	-	2,000.00	-	-	-	-
Telephone, teleconference calls	100.78	1,200.00	-	-	100.78	985.68
Treasurer's Work, Postage, Bank Chgs, Office	-	750.00	-	-	-	136.87
Student Bursaries & Expenses	-	4,000.00	-	-	-	-
Professional fees	-	2,000.00	-	-	-	-
Miscellaneous	-	-	-	-	-	-
<b>TOTAL DISBURSEMENTS</b>	<u>100.78</u>	<u>12,950.00</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>28,659.12</u>	<u>29,500.00</u>
<b>Excess - Receipts over Disbursements</b>	<u>5,099.22</u>	<u>\$ (12,950.00)</u>	<u>850.00</u>	<u>\$ -</u>	<u>(22,423.07)</u>	<u>\$ (29,500.00)</u>
					<u>(16,473.85)</u>	<u>(24,506.98)</u>
Bank and Investments - January 1	<u>22,130.06</u>	<u>37,171.16</u>	<u>126,996.46</u>	<u>186,297.18</u>	<u>210,804.66</u>	<u>210,804.66</u>
Bank and Investments - Current	<u>\$ 27,229.28</u>	<u>\$ 38,021.16</u>	<u>\$ 104,573.39</u>	<u>\$ 169,823.33</u>	<u>\$ 186,297.68</u>	<u>\$ 186,297.68</u>
<b>Represented by:</b>						
Bank Balance					\$ 25,589.97	\$ 42,169.83
Investment Certificates					<u>144,233.36</u>	<u>144,127.35</u>
Total Funds					<u>\$ 169,823.33</u>	<u>\$ 186,297.18</u>

**APPENDIX 4 (April/14)**

# Faith Presbyterian Church

*Pastor: Rev. Stephen Richardson*

110 Broadway  
Tillsonburg, Ontario  
N4G 3P6  
Telephone (519) 688-5111  
Email: stephen.galatians220@gmail.com



March 27, 2014

To the fathers and brothers of the Canadian Presbytery

Re: Report from Faith Mission (Tillsonburg, ON)

Greetings in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ.

We are pleased to share with the Canadian Presbytery what God has been doing in the last months.

**Attendance:** Attendance is generally the same week to week. We usually have 12 adults and 10 children in the morning. In the afternoons we see an average of 8 adults and 6 children. We are rejoicing at the return of one our ladies who was with us at the beginning and who left us to join her husband at another congregation. They are both now attending Faith regularly. More recently, a middle aged lady was recommended to our church by a former Baptist colleague of mine. She has been attending regularly since she first visited us a few weeks ago. We continue to pray for one other couple that has been attending sporadically for many months. We have not seen them more recently, but they continue to express a desire for fellowship and do say they plan to worship with us in the future. Another couple continues to worship with us in the afternoon services, though their attendance has been inconsistent lately.

**Preaching:** We almost completed our series on Paul's letter to the Romans in the afternoon services, and we will soon conclude our morning series on the *Attributes of God*. It has been our prayer throughout these series that they would be used of God to better ground the congregation in the knowledge of the faith. We hope that as they grow in knowledge that this understanding of God and the gospel would drive them to worship as they grow in their love for our dear Saviour.

**The Provisional Session:** We meet once a month meeting person to person one month and via Skype the other. Once again, we have set up a visitation schedule where once a month an elder and I visit a family in the church.

**Treasurer:** Alex Beard and Darryl Knaap are sharing the duties of treasurer. There is much work that needs to be done as we seek to get our financial ‘house’ in order. One of our ladies who regularly worships with us has worked for many years for the government, and in April I will be sitting down with her, Alex and Darryl to help our treasurers get a better handle on the finances.

**Vision and Core Values:** The congregation will be meeting this Friday to discuss our vision and core values. We hope to adopt a vision and statement before the fall Presbytery meeting.

**Missions:** The provisional session is working with the congregation to determine a plan for mission giving in the year 2014. At this point we are planning to have Rick Postma come and make a presentation on *Word and Deed*.

**Finances:** Monthly offerings average \$2,100.00. Excepting the pastor’s salary all of our budget needs are being met. We have a current balance of \$25, 297.

**Venue:** We continue to meet in a downtown storefront on Broadway, which is the main street in Tillsonburg. Although small, the space is adequate for now, and we are thankful for the opportunities for evangelism that having a storefront has brought us.

**Evangelism:** Over the last year we have established contacts at the local boarding house where I visit occasionally. I have also come to know our neighbours upstairs quite well and connect with most of them every week. More recently we have begun opening the church on Tuesdays between 7 pm and 10 pm and offering coffee, tea and cookies. One of our neighbours has been joining us, and as we have built a relationship with him we have had numerous opportunities to share the gospel. This last week he requested a Bible, and we are praying that he will soon join us for worship on Sunday. Another neighbour joined us for worship one Sunday morning, and though he continues to promise to return he has not yet done so. We have had opportunities to share the gospel with both him and his girlfriend, and we are thankful for the evidence that the Spirit of God is at work.

Please pray for this work

- That God would open up doors of opportunity for the gospel.
- That the Lord would add to our numbers not only those who are being saved, but mature believers who would be an encouragement to our young church. Most of us are new to the reformed Church, all of us our new to Presbyterianism and only one couple is over 35. We stand in need of elder believers who can mentor our young families.
- That we would grow in our understanding of the biblical doctrine of the Church.
- That we would grow in our love for the Lord and for our lost neighbours.
- That we see fruit from our efforts at evangelism.

- That those couples who are now attending infrequently would become committed to the church.

Yours in His service,

Stephen Richardson

## Past Officers of the Canadian Presbytery

### 2004-05

Moderator: Rev. Dr. Jack C. Whytock

Vice-moderator: Rev. Rick Barnes

Stated Clerk: Bill McKay

Treasurer: Henry Brunsveld

### 2006-07

Moderator: Rev. David Els

Vice-moderator: John Moerman

Stated Clerk: Bill McKay

Treasurer: Henry Brunsveld/  
Gary Armstrong

### 2008-09

Moderator: Mike Flewelling

Vice-moderator: Rev. Jeff Kingswood

Stated Clerk: Bill McKay

Treasurer: Gary Armstrong

### 2010-11

Moderator: Rev. Frank Z. Kovacs

Vice-moderator: Rev. David Els

Stated Clerk: Bill McKay

Treasurer: Gary Armstrong

### 2012-13

Moderator: Rev. Kevin Carter

Vice-moderator: John Moerman

Stated Clerk: Bill McKay

Treasurer: Gary Armstrong

### 2005-06

Moderator: Ken Turner

Vice-moderator: Rev. Frank Kovacs

Stated Clerk: Bill McKay

Treasurer: Henry Brunsveld

### 2007-08

Moderator: Rev. John van Eyk

Vice-moderator: Rev. Brian Murray

Stated Clerk: Bill McKay

Treasurer: Gary Armstrong

### 2009-10

Moderator: Rev. Brian Murray

Vice-moderator: Rev. Kevin Carter

Stated Clerk: Bill McKay

Treasurer: Gary Armstrong

### 2011-12

Moderator: Kevin Bigney

Vice-moderator: Rev. John Shearouse

Stated Clerk: Bill McKay

Treasurer: Gary Armstrong

### 2013-14

Moderator: Rev. John Shearouse

Vice-moderator: Dave Alexander

Stated Clerk: Bill McKay

Treasurer: Gary Armstrong