

# THE MINUTES OF THE CANADIAN PRESBYTERY

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

## **Stated Spring Meeting**

April 9 - 10, 2015

Reformed Hungarian Church ARP  
Toronto, Ontario



**Rev. Henry Bartsch**  
Moderator

**Mr. Bill McKay**  
Stated Clerk

## **OFFICERS OF THE CANADIAN PRESBYTERY**

### **MODERATOR**

(1 yr. Term expires June 30, 2015)

Rev. Henry Bartsch  
Trinity ARP Church  
Chatham, ON

### **VICE MODERATOR**

(1 yr. Term expires June 30, 2015)

Mr. Ken Turner  
Grace Presbyterian Church  
Woodstock, ON

### **STATED CLERK**

(3 yr. Term expires June 30, 2016)

Mr. Bill McKay  
Grace Presbyterian Church  
Woodstock, ON

### **READING CLERK**

(3 yr. Term expires June 30, 2016)

Rev. Brian Murray  
Grace Presbyterian Church  
Woodstock, ON

### **TREASURER**

(3 yr. Term expires June 30, 2016)

Mr. Gary Armstrong  
Grace Presbyterian Church  
Woodstock, ON

## **CHURCHES OF THE CANADIAN PRESBYTERY**

### **MARITIMES REGION**

Covenant Reformed Presbyterian Church

Covenanters ARP Church

Grace Fellowship Church, ARPC

Mt. Zion ARP Church

Trinity Presbyterian Mission

### **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 9-10, 2015  
Reformed Hungarian Church, ARP  
Toronto, Ontario**

The 2015 Stated Spring Meeting of the Canadian Presbytery was held on April 9-10, 2015 and hosted by the Reformed Hungarian Congregation (Toronto, Ontario). Sixteen (16) presbyters were in attendance for this meeting of presbytery.

**Thursday – April 9, 2015**

The delegates gathered for this stated 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 2015 Stated Spring Meeting**

The Moderator of the Canadian Presbytery (2014/15), Rev. Henry Bartsch, called the presbyters to order at 9:39 a.m. and convened the 2015 Stated Spring Meeting of the Canadian Presbytery. Rev. Bartsch constituted the meeting of the Canadian Presbytery as a court of the church of Jesus Christ, with a reading from scripture (Ecclesiastes 3:1-13) and prayer.

**Greetings from the Host Congregation**

On behalf of the congregation of Reformed Hungarian Church ARP, Ruling Elder Pal Nagy 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	Rev. Rick Barnes	ABSENT
Covenant Reformed Presbyterian	Rev. John Shearouse	ABSENT
Covenanters ARP	Rev. Kevin Carter	Albert Gerrits
Mt. Zion ARP	Rev. Andrew Savill	ABSENT
Trinity Presbyterian Church	Rev. Jonathan Cowan (Stated Supply)	ABSENT
<b><u>Ontario Region</u></b>		
Reformed Hungarian ARP	Vacant	Zoltan Nagy
Riverside ARP	Rev. Jerry Hamstra	Greig Park
Grace Presbyterian	Rev. Jeff Kingswood (Senior) ABSENT Rev. Brian Murray (Associate)	Bill McKay
Faith ARP Mission	Rev. Stephen Richardson (Mission Developer)	Ken Turner
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 DeVries Dr. William VanDoodewaard		Bill McKay

Rev. Jeff Kingswood and Dr. Frank Kovacs were not present and sent their regrets regarding their absence from the 2015 Stated Spring Meeting.

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

The Stated Clerk declared a quorum was present.

### **In Memoriam**

On Friday, March 13, 2015, (after a long illness) the Rev. William Campbell passed away to join his saviour in glory. Rev. Henry Bartsch led the presbytery in a Prayer of Thanksgiving for the providence of many years of faithful ministry in Canada by Rev. Campbell.

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

The following visitors were in attendance to these meetings:

Tom Van Maanen  
Martin Dendekker  
Brooks Pipher  
Pal Nagy

### **Privilege of the Floor (Outreach Canada)**

- **Motion:** Outreach Canada presented a motion to grant Privilege of the Floor to the elder representative from Faith ARP Mission. **M/S/C**

### **Report of the Moderator (Rev. Henry Bartsch)**

#### **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. Bartsch appointed Albert Gerrits and Rev. Kevin Carter to serve on the Moderator's Committee for Excuses and Resolutions.

#### **3. Report from Moderator's Committee on Subscription to the Westminster Standards**

The Moderator's Committee presented an interim report on whether subscription to the Westminster Standards was necessary for membership in the ARP. There is still further work to be done and they are requesting more time to finalize their report.

- **Motion:** To grant an extension to the committee in order to bring their final report to the 2016 Stated Spring meeting with an interim report presented to the 2015 Stated Fall meeting. **M/S/C**

#### **4. Moderator's Committee on When to Report Offenses to the Civil Magistrate**

The question arose at presbytery last fall on when it might be appropriate for a session to report offenses to the civil magistrate or a congregation. It was moved and seconded to form a committee to explore these thoughts and to report back to the presbytery.

Unfortunately this was not done. Rev. Bartsch appointed the following men to serve on this committee and to report back to the 2016 Stated Spring meeting of presbytery - Rev. Rick Barnes, Rev. Steve Richardson, Rev. Rudy de Vries, Jon Van Dyk and Henry Hogeterp.

5. Commission on the Installation of Rev. Jonathan Cowan

Rev. Andrew Savill presented the report from the Commission for the Installation of Rev. Jonathan Cowan as the pastor of Trinity Presbyterian Church (NB).

- **Motion:** To receive the report of the commission. **M/S/C**

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

1. Approval of the Minutes of Presbytery

- **Motion:** To approve the Minutes of Presbytery for the December 15, 2014 (Special Called Meeting) as distributed. **M/S/C**

2. Recorded Votes on Revisions to the Form of Government

a) Proposed Revision to Chapter X, Sec. E. 12 of the Form of Government

- **Motion:** To approve the Revision to the Form of Government (Chapter X, Sec. E. 12) for the Associate Reformed Presbyterian Church. **M/S/C**

The recorded vote is as follows: Yes - 16; No - 0

b) Proposed Revision to the Westminster Confession of Faith

- **Motion:** To approve the Revision to the Westminster Confession of Faith with the removal of Chapters 34, 35 and the appended Note “(b)” pertaining to chapter 3, from the *WCF*. **M/S/C**

The recorded vote is as follows: Yes - 16; No - 0

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

3. Correspondence

a) Reformed Hungarian Church ARP

The session of Reformed Hungarian Church ARP has officially notified the Canadian Presbytery (through the office of the Stated Clerk) of their intention to remove themselves from the fellowship of the Canadian Presbytery. The reason behind their decision to pursue this course of action is due to the clause in the Form of Government covering the disposal of church property/assets in the event of the dissolution of a congregation (Chapter 3.23). The Canadian Presbytery Manual of Procedure (Chapter II: Authority and Responsibility) cites the clause in the approved ARP Form of Government that grants the presbyteries the power “to hold, dispose and apply the properties of dissolved congregations at its discretion.” (Chapter 10.3.F)

The session of Reformed Hungarian Church ARP has taken exception to this clause in the Form of Government and had verbally expressed their concern to the Stewardship/Congregational Life Committee of the presbytery at the 2014 Stated Fall Meeting. At that time, the committee responded (in writing) that while it sympathised with their position, the Form of Government was clear on the matter and the presbytery could not stand in violation of the Form of Government. The committee did offer a proposal to the session that (in the event of a dissolution of the congregation) the presbytery would definitely consult with any remaining members of the congregation over where the proceeds from the disposal of any remaining property

and assets would (or could) be directed. The session refused to consider this proposal as an option.

With this official notification of their decision to withdraw from the presbytery, the Form of Government dictates the following procedural actions to take place (FoG - Chapter 3.13):

- A commission is to be appointed to counsel, advise and mediate with the local congregation in order to effect reconciliation or in the alternative an orderly withdrawal
- If the commission decides that it is in the best interest to proceed with withdrawal, they shall conduct a second election and shall certify the results thereof to the stated meeting of the presbytery, one year after the meeting upon which the application for withdrawal was received
- If the election results show that two-thirds or more of the membership of the local congregation (as certified by its Session) votes in favour of withdrawal, the Presbytery at such stated meeting approve the withdrawal of the congregation
- If a local congregation does not comply with the withdrawal procedures set forth above, then that congregation shall forfeit all its right, title, and interest in and to its property to the presbytery within which it is located
- **Motion:** To form a commission of the Presbytery in response to the petition from the Reformed Hungarian congregation to withdraw from the Canadian Presbytery.

**M/S/C**

As a result of this action, Rev. Bartsch appointed the following men to serve on this commission of the presbytery: John Rood, Ken Turner, John Moerman, Rev. Brian Murray, and Rev. Rudy deVries.

It is recommended that the commission should make an interim progress report at the 2015 Stated Fall Meeting of presbytery.

#### 4. 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 at least April 1 and then only after a great deal of urging by the clerk to make sure the 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 (Henry Van Til)**

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

The committee reported that it had received a written report of the Canadian ARP Women's Ministry from Jennifer Hovestadt.

#### 2. Manual of Procedure Amendments

The committee has recommended that the MoP be amended with the removal of CHPT. VII, PART D (Board of Directors), Art. 2 (d) through (g) (inclusive).

##### Article 2

##### **Duties:**

- a) To receive and/or transfer real property on behalf of the Presbytery.
  - b) To enter into purchasing and/or selling property on behalf of the Presbytery.
  - c) To issue or receive mortgages on behalf of the Presbytery.
  - ~~d) To be thoroughly familiar with the A.R.P.C. "Form of Government" as it applies to church property.~~
  - ~~e) To see that each particular church has a registered deed.~~
  - ~~f) To encourage local churches to secure a safe deposit box for housing of "official copies" of deeds.~~
  - ~~g) To keep abreast of liability issues which may concern the Presbytery and her Mission churches.~~
- **Motion:** To receive this action as the 2<sup>nd</sup> Reading to amend the Manual of Procedure to delete language from 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 2nd and final reading of the revision.

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

The Financial Report for 2014 (year-end) and the Financial Report for 2014 (to March 31, 2015) was presented for information only.

- **Motion:** That the presbytery approves the release of the requested amount of \$28,350 for the proposed Kingston Church plant budget for 2015. **M/S/C**

#### 4. Congregations without Pastors

##### a) Covenanters ARP Church

Covenanters ARP has begun searching for a new pastor to replace Rev. Kevin Carter when he leaves them at the end of April. They will have a stated supply through the summer months with Mr. Adam Harris (a student at Greenville Theological Seminary).

##### b) Reformed Hungarian ARP

The committee had some interaction with the elders of the congregation as we discussed their request to withdraw from the presbytery. They expressed that they did not want to leave the presbytery but that they did want to come to an agreement with the presbytery that would empower their congregation to determine how their assets would be disposed of in the event of the dissolution of their congregation. The committee urged the elders to work with the commission appointed by the moderator to work towards a solution.



5. Review of Annual Statistical Reports

The reports that were received were examined and accepted. Not all of the congregations submitted reports this year. It was also noted that in our review of the Annual Statistical Reports, there appears to be confusion as to how to properly fill out the reports. It was agreed that in the future, congregations should report the total sum of what they contribute to the Denominational Ministry Fund and the Canadian Church Development Fund (combined) under the section of Denominational Ministry Giving in the report and note it as Canadian.

6. Pakistan Mission Assistance

The committee has received a letter requesting financial assistance (\$300 USD) to assist Bill and Janet McKay to attend a World Witness Muslim Ministries Retreat scheduled for June 16-20, 2015 at the Ecoen Retreat Center in Paris, France.

- **Motion:** That the Canadian Presbytery will reimburse Bill and Janet McKay \$300 (USD) towards conference costs at the World Witness Muslim Ministries Retreat June 16-20, 2015. **M/S/C**
- **Motion:** To add \$300 (USD) to the 2015 budget to cover food and lodging expenses for Bill and Janet McKay in France. **M/S/C**

7. Reimbursement Policy (See Appendix 4)

In committee deliberations, the committee had difficulty finding written policy recommendations for reimbursement of funds. As a result the committee has formulated and approved a list of the criteria for financial reimbursement from the presbytery. The presbytery will continue to reimburse students actively under the care of presbytery \$400/year for travel to presbytery.

- **Motion:** To add Dr. Bill Van Doodewaard to the list of Ministers Out of Bounds who are eligible for reimbursement for travel expenses to presbytery and synod meetings. **M/S/C**
- **Motion:** To revise the Manual of Procedure (VII.D.2.b.5) to read *“Presbytery shall cover up to a limit of \$400 of the cost of a student’s travel to called presbytery meetings annually for a period not to exceed four years”*; and further, *“Presbytery shall provide assistance to students for travel to called Presbytery meetings at a maximum rate as set by the Stewardship committee.”* **M/S/C**

8. Review of Session Minutes

The session minutes from Grace Presbyterian Church, Riverside ARP, Hungarian Reformed, Trinity ARP, Faith ARP Mission and Mt. Zion ARP were examined and found to be in order.

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. Rick Barnes)**

1. Rev. Rudy deVries update

Rev. deVries presented his report from the past year with his work with Redemption Prison Ministries. It is good to note that he is having more opportunities to preach than normal. Dr.

VanDoodewaard led the presbytery in prayer for Rev. de Vries' ministry.

2. Trinity ARP Mission (Rev. Jonathan Cowan)

Rev. Cowan reported on the issues that are ongoing within the congregation and that the provisional session has been dealing with them. Relationships are damaged but the congregation seems to be supportive. Rev. Shearouse led the presbytery in prayer for Trinity ARP Mission.

3. Faith ARP Mission – Tillsonburg, ON (See Appendix 5)

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. They are encouraged to see a number of new regular attendees who are considering becoming members. Simon Oosterhof led the presbytery in prayer for the work at Faith ARP Mission.

4. Church Plant in Montreal

Mr. Brooks Pipher is here to explore the possibility of establishing a church plant in Montreal, QC. Mr. Pipher is a member of the Florida presbytery and has dual citizenship. He was encouraged to also explore approaching World Witness to consider the possibility of this becoming a missionary position rather than a church plant due to the difficulties of attempting a church plant such as this in a place with a language other than English.

5. Kingston, ON Church Plant

a) Rev. Kevin Carter gave a brief report on his work to date in preparation for the work of the church plant in Kingston, ON. He and his wife are planning on moving there in mid-May with an eye to start the ministry in June. They are currently still trying to sell their home in Kentville, NS and finding a new home in Kingston, ON. He has just finished up a time at the ARP Assessment Center for Church Planting.

b) Pastoral Call for Rev. Kevin Carter

- **Motion:** To approve the Pastoral Call of Rev. Carter to serve as the church planter for the proposed mission work in Kingston, ON as presented. **M/S/C**

Rev. Andrew Savill led the presbytery in prayer at this time for the Kingston Church Plant and Rev. Carter.

**RECESS**

At 4:10 p.m. Rev. Bartsch declared a recess for this session of presbytery. The presbytery then 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 9, 2015), for a service of worship. Rev. Kevin Carter presided over the service. Rev. Rudy de Vries presented God's Word to the congregation from Psalm 32. A time of fellowship followed the worship service.**

**Friday, April 10, 2015**

At 8:30 a.m., the Presbytery gathered in the sanctuary for worship. Rev. Henry Bartsch presided at this service and led the presbytery in prayer and worship. Rev. Bartsch read from Ezekiel 2:1-3:11. Rev. Andrew Savill brought the Word of God to the presbytery as he preached from Acts 14:1-7.

**Presbytery Re-Convenes**

At 9:45 a.m., following the worship service, Rev. Bartsch called the presbytery to order and re-convened the 2015 Stated Spring Meeting of the Canadian Presbytery with prayer.

**Calling of the Roll**

The clerk declared a quorum was present with no changes from the previous day.

**Introduction of Guests and Visitors**

Rev. Mike Jones (ONA)  
Mr. Brooks Pipher  
Martin Dendekker  
Tom Van Maanen  
Rev. Scott & Elenika Wilkinson (RPCNA)

**Fraternal Delegates**

- **Motion:** To grant Privilege of the Floor to the Fraternal Delegates. **M/S/C**

Rev. Scott Wilkinson brought greetings from the St. Lawrence Presbytery (RPCNA) with a plea for Christian unity. The St. Lawrence Presbytery has formed a committee to explore the possibility of organizing a Canadian Presbytery within the bounds of their own denomination and have invited the Canadian Presbytery of the ARP to join with them in some type of organizational unity to possibly form one Canadian synod between the two groups.

- **Motion:** To print Rev. Wilkinson's address in full form in these minutes. **M/S/C**

**Address to the Canadian Presbytery of the ARPC from Rev. Scott Wilkinson of the St. Lawrence Presbytery of the RPCNA, April 10, 2015**

*"Dear Brothers in the Lord Jesus Christ,*

*I consider myself fortunate that I have been given the opportunity to speak to you today as a fraternal delegate from the RPCNA, and as a representative of a special committee recently formed by our St. Lawrence Presbytery.*

*As a fraternal delegate, I send you warm greetings in the Lord Jesus Christ, and I can say, with a high degree of confidence, that the RPCNA is looking forward to meeting with the ARPC at the joint synod planned for this summer. We trust that such expressions of greater organizational unity are pleasing to the Lord, and we pray that the joint synod might be used by the Lord in advancing reformation throughout the whole Church in North America.*

*However, today, I come to you in a capacity greater than merely a fraternal delegate.*

*For close to twenty years our St. Lawrence Presbytery has been considering the establishment*

*of a Canadian presbytery. Currently we have six congregations in Canada, which are part of St. Lawrence Presbytery. They are: (1) Hudson /St-Lazare (in Quebec), (2) Russell (near Ottawa), (3) Almonte (near Ottawa), (4) Ottawa, (5) Kitchener, (6) Edmonton (Alberta). There is also a seventh congregation (in Toronto) from another denomination that is in the final stages of joining our presbytery.*

*Brothers, perhaps some of you have become aware of a developing movement (or spirit) toward reformational unity that has been surfacing in many of the reformed denominations. It seems that in many corners of the reformed churches there has been serious heart-felt and thoughtful discussion on the subject of pursuing organizational unity. What is unique about these discussions is that unlike the disastrous denominational unions that took place during the restoration movement of the 1830s, where churches came together on the basis of the lowest common denominator (e.g. no creed but Christ), and the equally devastating “umbrella” unions that took place in the 1920s among the mainline denominations, which united on the principle of toleration rather than Biblical truth, the discussions that are taking place today (respecting denominational unification among the reformed churches) are concerned with fidelity to Biblical truth. There is, it seems, deep reflection and reconsideration of our original reformation creeds, which were designed to be standards for unity throughout all Christendom.*

*In light of this, our presbytery (St. Lawrence) recently formed a committee comprised of Rev. Scott Wilkinson, Rev. Matthew Kingswood, and Elder Rob Somers, and assigned it the work of exploring the possibility of uniting our Canadian congregations with your Canadian congregations, into one Canadian synod. It is our hope that your presbytery might also form such a committee to work with ours in this exploration.*

*Brothers, as you know, your denomination and our denomination share many things in common. In fact, we began as identical twins... identical twin children of the 1640s-1680s covenanted Presbyterian Church of Scotland. Over the centuries we have become dizygotic (fraternal) twins. But, though we no longer look the same, we still remain twins. Indeed, our common DNA is reflected in the very names of our denominations. Both the Associate Reformed Presbyterian Church and the Reformed Presbyterian Church are reformed in doctrine; we share the same doctrinal confession of faith. But equally important, and practically speaking perhaps more importantly, we believe in the same form of Church government (Presbyterianism).*

*As you know, our Presbyterian puritan forefathers, who comprised the great majority of the Westminster Assembly, did not view Presbyterian church government as just one option among others equally warranted by the Word of God. Rather, they understood Presbyterianism as the one true form of church government prescribed by Jesus Christ in the*

*Scriptures. And it is abundantly clear from the writings and debates from the seventeenth century that Presbyterianism was understood to be one of the essential characteristics of Biblical reformation. In other words, Biblical reformation would lead to the establishment and unity of one Presbyterian Church.*

*It's very interesting... If one compares the Solemn League and Covenant with the mandate given by the English parliament to the Westminster Assembly and the vow that every voting member of the Assembly solemnly took, one clearly sees that in the minds of these men there was a conviction that Biblical Reformation would necessarily lead to the reformation of the government of the church as a Presbyterian government.*

*Prior to the trend of independency/congregationalism (which often seems to spring up as an expediency and expression of human autonomy rather than a Biblical model for government), the reformation had as its goal: one nation, one church. This had been the goal of the reformation since its earliest days. The reformation was not designed to set up a protestant church alongside a lingering Roman Catholic Church, but to see one universal church – reformed in doctrine, Presbyterian in government.*

*Now fast forward to today and let's ask ourselves brothers, where are we as Presbyterians today? How do we, as officers in the ARPC and the RPCNA, view the visible church of the Lord Jesus Christ? I wonder if our actions speak louder than our confessions. We confess a Presbyterian Church government (which stresses one unified church), but we tend to behave like Congregationalists (by perhaps unnecessarily persisting as separate-independent denominations). Brothers, please do not misunderstand me. I am by no means standing before you as a critic. My own denomination, along with all Presbyterian denominations, has this "zeitgeist" of congregationalism.*

*Brothers, if it is our desire to always be reforming (and, by the way "semper reformanda" does not mean 'always changing one's confessional standards' – as if Biblical truth evolves along with the culture of the world, it means seeking to bring the entire visible church into a Biblical confessional unity), then surely this includes a desire to end unnecessary schisms. Note: I say unnecessary schisms. Some schisms are necessary (Romans 16:17), but many are not. We need to examine ourselves and seek to discover if there is anything that we are doing that is unnecessarily dividing the body of Christ. It was the goal of the Westminster Assembly to produce a set of standards that would allow all Christians to be united together in one church. And the assembly strove to accommodate doctrine and practice in order to establish and preserve such unity. The result was the Westminster Standards.*

*At the dawn of the reformation there were basically three Christian denominations, which were not in communion with each other. Today, Christendom is comprised of some 2.2 billion professing Christians divided among some 20-35 thousand separate communions. The*

*kingdom of Jesus Christ is a fractured kingdom. Does not the city of Jerusalem, which was laid waste before the eyes of Jeremiah in the book of Lamentations, resemble the visible Church as it is today? Is it any wonder that the church has such little presence in our culture today when we see it as a pile of scattered bricks rather than the fortress it ought to be? How different the Church is described in Psalm 48 compared to Lamentations! Has not the time come for us to survey the fallen city, and like Nehemiah, begin to rebuild what has been broken down?*

*The Lord Jesus prayed in John 17 that His Church would be one. The Lord died on the cross to reconcile sinners to Himself in one body (Ephesians 2:16). The apostles never suggested that the Church organize itself into separate Greek and Jew, circumcised and uncircumcised, barbarian, Scythian, slave and free-men denominations. No doubt, in his heart, Peter regarded the gentile believers at Antioch as fellow Christians, but he was severely rebuked by the Apostle Paul for sitting at a different table (even though that table was in the same room!). And, our Lord also said concerning kingdoms, "Every kingdom divided against itself is laid waste, and a divided household falls."*

*Brothers, we of the St. Lawrence Presbytery of the Reformed Presbyterian Church of North America, humbly request that, together, we explore the possibility of once again being united (as we were many years ago) in one organized communion; and that together, we seek the reformation of all the churches in Canada, to the end that there be one Canadian Synod - reformed in doctrine, presbyterian in government."*

Rev. Brian Murray led the presbytery in prayer for Rev. Wilkinson's ministry and for the work of the RPCNA.

#### **Outreach Canada (cont'd. from April 9, 2015)**

##### **Rev. Mike Jones (Outreach North America)**

At this time, Rev. Mike Jones as the Director of Outreach North America brought greetings and gave us a brief introduction to his life and family. He shared some of the hopes and vision Outreach North America has for the future. He spoke about the resources that ONA has to offer for assistance to our congregations for an "evangelism strategy" (E3) to see evangelism expanded throughout the denomination.

Rev. Steve Richardson offered prayer for Rev. Jones and his work with ONA.

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

#### **Stewardship & Congregational Life (cont'd. from April 9, 2015)**

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

#### **MINISTER AND HIS WORK/NOMINATIONS COMMITTEE REPORT (Dr. William VanDoodewaard)**

##### **1. Students Under Care**

The Minister and His Work Committee has received 2 requests from Grace Presbyterian Church to take Mr. Martin Dendekker and Mr. Thomas Van Maanen on as Students Under

Care of Presbytery.

a) Thomas van Maanen

Mr. Van Maanen gave a brief testimony on his life and how he came to faith. He noted how the church building which is now home to the Reformed Hungarian congregation, was his first church home when it was originally a Free Reformed Church. Tom is a recent graduate of Greenville Theological Presbyterian Seminary with a BDiv degree. It is Tom's hope and desire to be licensed and ordained as a Minister of the Word and Sacraments in the ARP to hopefully serve as a missionary with Word and Deed Ministries in Malawi, Africa.

- **Motion:** To accept Thomas Van Maanen as a student under the care of the Minister and His Work Committee of the Canadian Presbytery. **M/S/C**
- **Motion:** That Rev. Henry Bartsch is appointed to serve as a mentor for Mr. Van Maanen. **M/S/C**

b) Martin Dendekker

Mr. Dendekker gave a brief testimony of his life and how he came to faith. Martin is currently a student attending Greenville Theological Seminary pursuing an Mdiv degree. It is not clear at this point as to whether Martin will seek a ministry position post graduation.

- **Motion:** To accept Martin Dendekker as a student under the care of the Minister and His Work Committee of the Canadian Presbytery. **M/S/C**
- **Motion:** That Rev. Jerry Hamstra is appointed to serve as a mentor for Mr. Dendekker. **M/S/C**

Rev. Bartsch presented the charge to both Mr. Van Maanen and Mr. Dendekker as they begin their time as Students under Care of the presbytery and offered prayer for them at this time.

2. Reports from Ministers serving out of bounds

- a) Dr. Bill VanDoodewaard: Dr. VanDoodewaard gave an oral report on his work to the Presbytery. In addition to his duties at the seminary, he is working with a NE Presbytery exploratory church plant (Holy Trinity ARP), in Grand Rapids, MI, and is acting as the Interim Moderator of the Provisional Session there.
- b) Dr. Frank Kovacs: Dr. Kovacs was ill and not able to attend to give a report. The committee will set up a teleconference call with Dr. Kovacs soon and receive his report then.

Prayer was offered by Greig Park for Dr. VanDoodewaard and Dr. Kovacs at this time.

3. Dissolution of Pastoral Relationship

- **Motion:** To approve the dissolution of the pastoral Relationship between Covenanters ARP and Rev. Kevin Carter. **M/S/C**
- **Motion:** To appoint Rev. John Shearouse as the Interim Moderator for Covenanters ARP. **M/S/C**

4. Standing Committees (See Appendix 6)

The Standing Committees of presbytery were appointed.

- **Motion:** To approve the Standing Committee List for 20145/16 as presented. **M/S/C**
- **Motion:** To approve the appointment of Zoltan Nagy to the M&HW committee. **M/S/C**

- **Motion:** To approve the appointment of Pal Nagy to the Outreach Canada committee. **M/S/C**
  - Rev. Steve Richardson was appointed by the moderator to serve as the chairman of the Stewardship/Congregational Life committee.
  - Rev. Rick Barnes was appointed to serve as the chairman of the Outreach Canada committee.
  - Rev. Brian Murray was appointed to serve as the chairman of the M&HW committee.
  - These chair appointments are provisional upon the committees having a meeting to either ratify those appointments or voting their own chairmen into place.
5. Moderator 2015/16
- **Motion:** That Rev. Rudy deVries is accepted by acclamation to the office of Moderator of the Canadian Presbytery for 2015/16. **M/S/C**
6. Vice-moderator 2015/16
- Rev. deVries put forward the name of Albert Gerrits to serve as Vice-Moderator of the Canadian Presbytery for 2015/16.
- **Motion:** To confirm Albert Gerrits as Vice-Moderator of the Canadian Presbytery for 2015/16. **M/S/C**
- **Motion:** To adopt the report as a whole. **M/S/C**

#### **UNFINISHED BUSINESS**

There was no "Unfinished Business" to conduct.

#### **NEW BUSINESS**

1. Development of a National Canadian Synod of the ARP
- **Motion:** That a moderator's committee be formed with the task to explore the advantages, possibilities, agreeableness, and process of the Canadian ARP Presbytery separating itself from the ARP Church (United States) to form its own Canadian ARP Synod. This exploratory work of the Committee would include these tasks:
    - 1) Explore and clearly define the reason(s) why organizing into a separate Canadian Synod would be a blessing to Christ's church in Canada and the world
    - 2) Write and send a survey to all sessions of the Canadian Presbytery to answer questions regarding whether or not it would advance Christ's church in Canada if the Canadian Presbytery were to organize into a distinct Canadian ARP Synod. The sessions would also be asked to give their opinions and ideas
    - 3) List the advantages and disadvantages of having our own national ARP Synod
    - 4) Assess our current financial position and future financial strength (so far as possible)
    - 5) Clearly define the steps (if any) that will be needed to incorporate in Canada and register with the Canadian government as a Synod
    - 6) Clearly define the step by step process required by our current FOG for the Canadian Presbytery to organize into a Canadian Synod. **M/S/C**

The following men will be asked to serve on this committee: Bryant Flanagan, Simon Oosterhof, Henry Hogeterp, Rev. Jeff Kingswood, Rev. Brian Murray, Rev. Rick Barnes and



Rev. Henry Barstch.

- **Motion:** That the committee the presbytery has appointed to explore the possibility of a national Canadian ARP synod will also be charged to explore the possibility of a future uniification of the Canadian ARP churches with the St. Lawrence Presbytery (RPCNA) in response to their request as brought to the presbytery by Rev. Scott Wilkinson. **M/S/C**

#### **REPORTS OF MODERATOR'S COMMITTEE**

##### 1. Excuses and Absences

- **Motion:** Excuses for Absence with Excuse from Rev. Jeff Kingswood and Dr. Frank Kovacs were received and approved. **M/S/C**

##### 2. Ruling Elder Representation at Presbytery Meetings

The churches of the presbytery need to be reminded that Ruling Elder representation at presbytery meetings is vital to the proper functioning of the presbytery. Rev. Kevin Carter was requested to send a letter to the sessions and speak of the importance of attending and participating in all meetings and they should encourage their elders to make an attempt to attend whenever possible and to participate with their committee assignments. The committee made the presbytery aware that the following congregations and missions did not have any ruling elder representatives present at this meeting: Mt. Zion ARP (Moncton), Grace Fellowship ARP (Sydney Mines, NS), Covenant Reformed Presbyterian Church (Halifax, NS) and Trinity Presbyterian Mission (Woodstock, NB).

##### 3. Resolutions

The following motion from the Excuses and Resolutions Committee:

- **Motion:** *“Be it resolved that as the Presbyters and visitors to the 2015 Stated Spring meeting of the Canadian Presbytery, were warmly received, wonderfully fed and graciously served by the Hungarian Reformed Congregation, we extended our gratitude and joy to the brothers and sisters here.”* **M/S/C**

This resolution will be conveyed to the congregation of Reformed Hungarian Church, ARP.

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

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

**September 24-25, 2015:** Trinity ARP Church, Woodstock, NB

**April 7-8, 2016:** Riverside ARP Church, Cambridge, ON

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

Rev. Henry Bartsch prayed and gave the benediction. The court adjourned at 11:55 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. Henry Bartsch  
Moderator

**APPENDIX 1 (April/15)**

**Women's Ministry Report to the Congregational Life Committee**  
**Spring Presbytery Meeting April 9, 2015**

It has been a joy to serve at the Canadian Representative again for the Women's Ministry.

In July I attended the 100<sup>th</sup> Annual Meeting at Bon Clarcken. Two ladies from Grace, Woodstock, one from Trinity, Chatham and two others from Riverside, Cambridge came along with me. We had a great time getting to know each other as we started the long drive early on Saturday morning. Sunday morning we worshiped at the local ARP church and in the evening Derek Thomas led the worship service preaching on God's faithfulness to the generations. This was the theme for most of the week.

Sunday evening we had a concert with Babbie Mason and heard the first of three speeches from our speaker Ellie Lafaro. The sessions were very interactive and Mrs. Lafaro spent her time looking at the life of Abraham and how God was faithful to him as he obeyed – and even as he disobeyed. She encouraged us to think of the legacy that we leave behind as we become people to love and serve the Lord above all.

I was able to spend some time with Mrs. Lafaro on Sunday evening talking about some of the differences between the US and Canadian ARP churches. Her first question to me was 'Canada, there is a lot of gray hair here. What is it like in Canada?' While secretly glad that my gray hair was recently covered, I assured her that the Canadian churches had a lot of children and young people as opposed to the seemingly older and dying churches that she saw in the US. This was a great encouragement to her and as she spoke the next morning, she encouraged us all to make sure that we pass down our love for the Lord to the younger generations – that the church would not die with our generation.

In February, the ladies from Grace, Woodstock and Faith, Tillsonburg hosted the 9<sup>th</sup> 1Accord Conference (the name was changed from the Ontario ARP Ladies Retreat) at the Elmhurst Inn. Eighty ladies attended from ages 16-90. There were many new faces there and a large number of younger girls were also in attendance. Mrs. Kathleen Curto was our speaker and she spoke to us on "Keeping the Heart", using the book by John Flavel. It was a weekend packed with information and practical ways of keeping our focus on God during worship, prayer and devotions.

We also did a service activity and put together care packages for each of the churches to hand out to local pregnancy centres, women's shelters and to hand out at their own local outreach programs. Many of the items were donated after some of the organizers wrote letters to Walmart, Dollarama and Food Basics. While some of the ladies were putting these together, others were writing letters to different missionaries from the ARP. This was a great way to introduce some of our denomination's missionaries to the women and to spend some time in encouraging them.

Last year I was not able to help with the organizing as much as I should have and this year I was very thankful to be able to attend some of the meetings and see the enthusiasm of the ladies as they put this conference together and their excitement in their work. Next year Riverside, Cambridge will be hosting the 1Accord Conference and that work has begun.

Next weekend I will be attending the Women's Ministry Board meeting at Bon Clarcken. It has been a while since I have attended these smaller meetings, but this summer I was told that my travel expenses would be covered to attend and that they would rather me be there in person than to just Skype in for part of the meeting. I am looking forward to meeting with these ladies in a more intimate setting and with a smaller group it is much easier to talk and to encourage the women in their different jobs.

I also hope to attend the 101<sup>st</sup> Annual meeting in July.

The Spring issue of the ARP Encouragers Newsletter is available for you to take back to your churches. I was able to get two other people I am always looking for topics and/or writers so if you know anyone in your church who might be able to contribute please let me know.

Thank you for the opportunity to serve the churches in this way.

Respectfully Submitted  
Jennifer Hovestadt

**APPENDIX 2 (April/15)**

<b>Treasurer's Report</b>													
<b>for the period ending December 31, 2014</b>													
	<b>Expense Fund</b>		<b>Denominational Ministry Fund</b>		<b>Canadian Church Development Trust</b>		<b>Total All Funds</b>						
<b>RECEIPTS</b>	<b>Actual</b>		<b>Actual</b>		<b>Actual</b>		<b>2014</b>						
							<b>2013</b>						
Covenant Reformed	\$	800.00	\$	400.00	\$	1,800.00	\$	3,000.00	\$	5,100.00			
Covenanters		500.00		-		6,720.65		7,220.65		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		-		-		283.66		283.66		1,336.91			
Reformed Hungarian		200.00		50.00		500.00		750.00		-			
Riverside		3,200.00		300.00		9,646.75		13,146.75		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		1,025.90		-		-		1,025.90		882.80			
<b>TOTAL RECEIPTS</b>		<u>9,225.90</u>		<u>1,450.00</u>		<u>25,187.11</u>		<u>35,863.01</u>		<u>25,126.71</u>			
<b>DISBURSEMENTS</b>		<b>Budget</b>		<b>Budget</b>		<b>Budget</b>							
Church plants - Kingston		-		-		221.31		1,000.00		221.31	1,041.74		
Church plants - Tillsonburg		-		-		28,849.37		28,500.00		28,849.37	45,614.95		
Mission Work - Pakistan		-		6,360.50		9,000.00		-		6,360.50	-		
Computer		-		-		-		-		-	-		
Travel		3,061.32		3,000.00		-		-		3,061.32	1,854.45		
Moderator/Clerk Travel		22.63		2,000.00		-		-		22.63	-		
Telephone, teleconference calls		1,336.65		1,200.00		-		-		1,336.65	985.68		
Treasurer's Work, Postage, Bank Chgs, Office		199.22		750.00		-		-		199.22	136.87		
Student Bursaries & Expenses		2,000.00		4,000.00		-		-		2,000.00	-		
Professional fees		-		2,000.00		-		-		-	-		
Miscellaneous		-		-		-		-		-	-		
<b>TOTAL DISBURSEMENTS</b>		<u>6,619.82</u>		<u>12,950.00</u>		<u>6,360.50</u>		<u>9,000.00</u>		<u>29,070.68</u>	<u>29,500.00</u>	<u>42,051.00</u>	<u>49,633.69</u>
<b>Excess - Receipts over Disbursements</b>		<u>2,606.08</u>		<u>\$ (12,950.00)</u>		<u>(4,910.50)</u>		<u>\$ (9,000.00)</u>		<u>(3,883.57)</u>	<u>\$ (29,500.00)</u>	<u>(6,187.99)</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>186,297.68</u>		<u>210,804.66</u>			
Bank and Investments - Current	\$	<u>24,736.14</u>	\$	<u>32,260.66</u>	\$	<u>123,112.89</u>	\$	<u>180,109.69</u>	\$	<u>186,297.68</u>			
<b>Represented by:</b>													
Bank Balance								\$ 34,955.94		\$ 42,169.83			
Investment Certificates								<u>145,153.75</u>		<u>144,127.85</u>			
Total Funds								<u>\$ 180,109.69</u>		<u>\$ 186,297.68</u>			

**APPENDIX 3 (April/15)**

<b>Associate Reformed Presbyterian Churches in Canada</b>						
<b>Treasurer's Report</b>						
<b>for the period ending March 31, 2015</b>						
	<b>Expense Fund</b>	<b>Denominational Ministry Fund</b>		<b>Canadian Church Development Trust</b>	<b>Total All Funds</b>	<b>Total All Funds</b>
	<b>Actual</b>	<b>Actual</b>	<b>Actual</b>	<b>Actual</b>	<b>2015</b>	<b>2014</b>
<b>RECEIPTS</b>						
Covenant Reformed	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 3,000.00
Covenanters	-	-	-	-	-	7,220.65
Grace Fellowship, NS	-	-	-	-	-	-
Grace Presbyterian, ON	-	-	-	-	-	8,236.05
Mount Zion	-	-	-	-	-	283.66
Reformed Hungarian	200.00	50.00	-	500.00	750.00	750.00
Riverside	2,500.00	150.00	-	-	2,650.00	13,146.75
Trinity Chatham, ON	1,000.00	200.00	-	1,000.00	2,200.00	2,200.00
Trinity Woodstock, NB	400.00	-	-	4,000.00	4,400.00	-
Interest	-	-	-	-	-	1,025.90
<b>TOTAL RECEIPTS</b>	<b>4,100.00</b>	<b>400.00</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>5,500.00</b>	<b>10,000.00</b>	<b>35,863.01</b>
<b>DISBURSEMENTS</b>						
	<b>Budget</b>	<b>Budget</b>	<b>Budget</b>	<b>Budget</b>		
Church plants - Kingston	-	-	-	-	-	221.31
Church plants - Tillsonburg	-	-	-	22,800.00	-	28,849.37
Mission Work - Pakistan	-	3,484.78	9,000.00	-	3,484.78	6,360.50
Computer	1,580.62	1,500.00	-	-	1,580.62	-
Travel	1,021.24	3,000.00	-	-	1,021.24	3,061.32
Moderator/Clerk Travel	-	2,000.00	-	-	-	22.63
Telephone, teleconference calls	1,082.87	1,200.00	-	-	1,082.87	1,336.65
Treasurer's Work, Postage, Bank Chgs, Office	-	750.00	-	-	-	199.22
Student Bursaries & Expenses	-	4,000.00	-	-	-	2,000.00
Professional fees	1,356.00	2,000.00	-	-	1,356.00	-
Hungarian Pulpit Supply	-	2,400.00	-	-	-	-
Miscellaneous	-	-	-	-	-	-
<b>TOTAL DISBURSEMENTS</b>	<b>5,040.73</b>	<b>16,850.00</b>	<b>3,484.78</b>	<b>9,000.00</b>	<b>22,800.00</b>	<b>42,051.00</b>
<b>Excess - Receipts over Disbursements</b>	<b>(940.73)</b>	<b>\$ (16,850.00)</b>	<b>(3,084.78)</b>	<b>\$ (9,000.00)</b>	<b>5,500.00</b>	<b>\$ (22,800.00)</b>
Bank and Investments - January 1	24,736.14	32,260.66	-	123,112.89	180,109.69	186,297.68
Bank and Investments - Current	<u>\$ 23,795.41</u>	<u>\$ 29,175.88</u>	<u>\$ -</u>	<u>\$ 128,612.89</u>	<u>\$ 181,584.18</u>	<u>\$ 180,109.69</u>
<b>Represented by:</b>						
Bank Balance					\$ 36,430.43	\$ 34,955.94
Investment Certificates					<u>145,153.75</u>	<u>145,153.75</u>
Total Funds					<u>\$ 181,584.18</u>	<u>\$ 180,109.69</u>

**APPENDIX 4 (April/15)****Reimbursement Policies for Stewardship as Approved on April 9, 2015****I. Reimbursement for travel expenses****A. What is it for?**

1. For travel to stated presbytery meetings
  - a. The clerk, the moderator, Rudy deVries, Bill VanDoodewaard
  - b. Those labouring out of bounds
    - The expectation is that travel to Presbytery & Synod is included in their call.
    - When this is not the case, requests can be submitted for consideration on a case by case basis.
    - The decision to support such persons requires authorization by the Presbytery.
  - c. Students under care of Presbytery
    - Students are encouraged to travel with their home church and find billeting when possible.
    - Assistance will be provided up to \$400/year for a maximum for 4 years.
    - Students who are applying to come under care are not eligible.
  - d. Those requested to come on Presbytery business not otherwise provided for.
  - e. Churches that cannot afford to send their ministers/elders
    - Requests are to be submitted at the Presbytery meeting prior to the one for which assistance is needed and will be determined on a case by case basis. Presbytery approval will be required.
2. For travel to Synod
  - a. Rudy de Vries, Bill VanDoodewaard
  - b. Those labouring out of bounds (determined in the same way for Presbytery travel)
  - c. Churches that cannot afford to send their ministers/elders (same as for Presbytery travel)
    - Requests are to be submitted at the Presbytery meeting prior to the one for which assistance is needed and will be determined on a case by case basis. Presbytery approval will be required.
3. For travel on presbytery committee/commission business
4. For geographical retreats
  - Churches cover travel
  - Presbytery covers meeting room and lunch.
5. For travel by provisional sessions
  - The churches being served are expected to reimburse those who are serving them.

**B. Rates (to be reviewed each year at the spring meeting of Presbytery)**

1. Mileage rates: 22 cents/km (based on cost to drive an older minivan)
  - Gas: \$1.35/liter x 10 liters/100km = 13 cents/km
  - Tires, brakes, maintenance, wear: 9 cents/km
  - Option: If gas is more than \$1.35/liter, provide gas receipts and add \$.07 cents/km for mileage expense
2. Rental cars (cost of rental plus gas)
3. Economy Air Travel (tickets must be purchased at least 2 weeks in advance unless there is an emergency)
4. Reasonable costs for Hotels & Meals

- C. Method for submitting expenses for reimbursement
1. Submit expenses to the Chairman (or assistant chairman if he is not available) who will then forward them to the treasurer.
  2. Include the date and purpose of the travel, related receipts (can be emailed), and distances travelled if for mileage expense.

**II. Student Bursaries for the theological studies of those students who are under care.**

- A. Bursaries are to be administered by the M&HW Committee in coordination with the Stewardship Committee (See MOP).
- M&HW will evaluate the needs of students and report to Stewardship
  - Stewardship will evaluate based on Presbytery resources and established rates.
- B. Rates (to be reviewed each year at the spring meeting of Presbytery)
- Up to \$250 per course and \$1000 per semester.

**APPENDIX 5 (April/15)**

# Faith Presbyterian Church

*Pastor: Rev. Stephen Richardson*

110 Broadway  
Tillsonburg, Ontario  
N4G 3P6  
Telephone W. (519) 688-5111 H. (519) 842-2295 C. (519) 403-6523  
Email: pres2011@zoho.com



April 4, 2015

To the fathers and brothers of the Canadian Presbytery

Re: Report from Faith Mission (Tillsonburg, ON)

Greetings in the name of our King.

I am grateful for this chance to share how the Lord has been working in our midst these past several months.

**Attendance:** We have witnessed significant growth over the last few months. Between our two services we are now regularly seeing 24 adults and 15 children each Lord's Day. Three of these adults and one child only come in the afternoons. In addition, we have received 5 new members since the New Year. We are rejoicing at the news that a family of 6 has just requested membership and will be joining us shortly. They will be transferring membership from a local URC congregation. Three more families attend occasionally. They are prayerfully considering joining Faith. Some young adults (between 3 and 5) from the local Heritage Reformed Church attend our afternoon services fairly regularly. Our attendance since last presbytery has increased by 10 adults and 5 children (not including those who attend less regularly). In short we have almost doubled in size.

**Preaching:** In our morning service we continue to work through the Song of Solomon, and in the afternoon we are working through Paul's letter to the Galatians.

**The Provisional Session:** We meet once a month. Our meetings are in person one month and via Skype the other.

**Treasurer:** Rebecca Korvemaker continues to serve as the treasurer. She has asked if Rita Ferguson can take her place. Rita, who recently became a member, has said she is willing to serve if that is the will of the congregation.

**Vision and Core Values:** We have finished our work on our core values. We have not yet decided on a vision statement. Please see document attached to this report.

**Missions:** The congregation has allocated \$2100 toward missions. A third will go to *Word and Deed*, a third to the church development fund and a third to local outreach.

**Finances:** Monthly offerings average \$2,763.72. Excepting the pastor's salary all of our budget needs are being met. As of April 4 we have a balance of \$17712.91.

**Venue:** We continue to meet in a downtown storefront on Broadway, which is the main street in Tillsonburg. We are praying about the possibility of relocating to a storefront situated in the most densely populated part of town. The owner is asking \$2600/month (taxes included). The one weakness of this location is the parking.

**Evangelism:** Last presbytery we reported that 3 of our contacts had moved away. These contacts were replaced by new neighbours. One of these neighbours is Jay. Jay now attends Faith fairly regularly (in our afternoon service) and is professing faith in Jesus. He brings his daughter Azra with him. His sister (Megan), mother (Meg) and ex-

girlfriend (Kelly) have all been at church and we continue to pray that they come to know the Saviour. Jay's friend Ronnie also attends church with us regularly.

We are thankful for the initiative of Jonathan VanSanten and his fiancée Rebekah Dalm. With their help we began an outreach program last fall which we called *Open Doors*. This program is a weekly program, which takes place Fridays between 7pm and 10pm. A number of young adults from the local Heritage Reformed Church come out each week to help. After a time of prayer we break into groups. One group stays back to serve pizza and visit those who come in while the other groups go out door to door to share the gospel. We praise God for what He is already doing and look to the future encouraged at the prospect of what He will yet do.

Please pray for this work

- That God would continue to open up doors of opportunity for the gospel. Pray particularly for the boarding house and for the apartments on Lisgar and in the downtown region of Tillsonburg.
- That God would soften hearts among those with whom we have contact. Pray especially for Stan, Dan, Shirley, Angel (and her children), Emily, Ed, Samantha, Megan, Meg and Kelly.
- That Chris, Michelle, Jay, Azra and Ronnie would grow in their understanding of the gospel, and that each one would come to saving faith.
- For Pierre and Charlene. This is a couple that face many challenges. For years Charlene has been plagued by voices. Since the elders laid hands on her and prayed for her (last winter) she reports that the voices have gone. Still, this couple have not been in attendance these past few months because of physical and emotional difficulties. They are an elderly couple looking after a middle aged son who lives with them, two adult grandchildren who also live with them and a daughter who stays in a nursing home because bed ridden by a debilitating disease.
- For those considering joining the work.
- That we would be wise as we seek to serve the community.
- We thank God for new members. Still we pray that the Lord would add to our numbers mature believers who would be an encouragement to our young church. In spite of our recent growth only one couple is over 36. We stand in need of elder believers who can mentor our young families.
- That we would grow in our love for the Lord and for our lost neighbours.
- That we would be faithful and loving in our evangelism and that we would see even more fruit from our efforts!
- That our elders would be encouraged and strengthened in the work that they have been called to do as they shepherd our congregation and their own.
- For the pastor:
  - For preaching that is sound but also in demonstration of the spirit and power.
  - For growth in my prayer life.
  - For more love for the sheep under my care.
  - For growth in holiness.
  - For our family as we look at moving to Tillsonburg.
- Join us in praising God for His faithfulness and the many ways He has answered our prayers! His mercies are indeed new every day; and we are so very thankful both for the opportunities He has given us to make known the riches of His grace and for the daily assurance that He deals with not as our sins deserve but for the sake of His perfect Son.

Yours in His service,

Stephen Richardson



## **Faith Presbyterian Church** *Core Values and Purpose Statement*

### ***Core Values***

#### **1. God's Word**

We believe:

- the Bible, consisting of the Old and New Testaments, is God's Holy Word and is without error (2 Timothy 3:15-16);
- the Bible reveals who God is, how we can have a relationship with Him, and how we may serve Him as He requires (Ephesians 3:1-21);
- the teaching of the Bible is accurately summarized in the *Westminster Confession of Faith*, the *Larger* and *Shorter* catechisms, which form the doctrinal standard of this church, and the *Three Forms of Unity*, which are a helpful teaching tool (2 Timothy 1:13).

#### **2. Worship**

We believe:

- the Church exists for the proclamation of truth, that God may be glorified in the salvation of sinners (1 Timothy 3:15, 1 Corinthians 10:31; 2 Timothy 2:25-26);
- that God is to be worshipped according to His command (Exodus 20:4-6).
- that Sunday (called the *Lord's Day*) is God's appointed day for worship. On this day we gather for the reading and preaching of the Bible, the observance of the sacraments of Baptism and the Lord's Supper, prayer and the singing of praise to God (Revelation 1:10; Acts 2:42)

#### **3. Evangelism**

We believe:

- the offer of salvation is free and is therefore to be extended to all, so that men, women and children may come to faith, turning away from sin and trusting Jesus for their salvation (2 Corinthians 4:4-6; 5:14-21);
- the gospel of the glory of Christ must be demonstrated in a life of obedience to God's commands, which is fulfilled when we love God with all our heart, soul and mind and when we love our neighbor as ourselves (Titus 2:10-15);

- it is our duty and privilege both to help others grow in their understanding of the Bible so that they may know what God requires of them and to help meet their practical needs as we are able (Hebrews 3:13; James 1:27, 2:14-16).

#### **4. Fellowship**

We believe:

- it is important to encourage one another by meeting for worship, prayer, study, service and friendship (Colossians 3:16);
- we are to hold one another accountable to the Word of God that we may grow together in Christ (Galatians 6:1);
- that by the love of Jesus we are made able and glad to care for one another (Romans 12:9-10).

#### **5. Prayer**

We believe:

- prayer is required of all people and is accepted when made in the name of Jesus, by the help of the Holy Spirit and according to God's will (Matthew 6:9-13);
- prayer is a primary way by which God accomplishes His purposes in the world, the Church and for all eternity (Luke 10:2);
- that private and family prayer are a vital part of the Christian walk (Matthew 6:6-8; Genesis 12:6-9).

**APPENDIX 6 (April/15)**

**Presbytery Committee Assignments 2015/16**

**Outreach Canada (Chair: Rev. Rick Barnes)**

Rev. Rick Barnes (2016)

Dave Alexander (2016) – *Covenant Reformed Presbyterian Church*

Dave MacKenna (2016) – *Grace Fellowship ARP*

Albert Gerrits (2017) – *Covenanters ARP*

Greig Park (2017) – *Riverside ARP*

John Moerman (2017) – *Trinity ARP (Chatham)*

Ken Turner (2017) – *Grace Presbyterian*

Pal Nagy (2018) – *Reformed Hungarian*

Rev. Andrew Savill (2018)

Rev. Henry Bartsch (2018)

Rev. Jonathan Cowan (2018)

Rev. Kevin Carter (2018)

**Minister & His Work/Nominations (Chair: Rev. Brian Murray)**

Rev. Brian Murray (2016)

Henry Hogeterp (2016) – *Covenanters ARP*

Lloyd Johnstone (2016) – *Grace Fellowship ARP*

Jon Van Dyk (2016) – *Riverside ARP*

Dr. Bill Van Doodewaard (2017)

John Rood (2017) – *Grace Presbyterian*

Kevin Bigney (2017) – *Covenant Reformed Presbyterian*

Mike Flewelling (2017) – *Trinity Presbyterian (NB)*

Henry Van Til (2018) – *Trinity ARP (Chatham)*

Russell Lutes (2018) – *Mt. Zion ARP*

Rev. John Shearouse (2018)

Rev. Jerry Hamstra (2018)

Zoltan Nagy (2018) – *Reformed Hungarian*

**Stewardship/Congregational Life (Chair: Rev. Steve Richardson)**

Dr. Frank Kovacs (2016)

Peter Lindsay (2016) – *Covenanters ARP*

Winston MacEachern (2016) – *Grace Fellowship ARP*

Bill McKay (2017) – *Grace Presbyterian*

Rev. Jeff Kingswood (2017)

Rev. Steve Richardson (2017)

Sean Panjer (2017) – *Grace Presbyterian*

Troy McNulty (2017) – *Covenanters ARP*

Bryant Flanagan (2018) – *Mt. Zion ARP*

Rev. Rudy deVries (2018)

Simon Oosterhof (2018) – *Riverside ARP*

## 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

### 2014-15

Moderator: Rev. Henry Bartsch

Vice-moderator: Ken Turner

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