

THE MINUTES OF THE CANADIAN PRESBYTERY

Associate Reformed Presbyterian Churches in Canada,
Associate Reformed Presbyterian Synod

2019 Stated Fall Meeting

September 26-27, 2019

Mt. Zion ARP Church

Moncton, NB



Mr. John Rood
Moderator

Mr. Bill McKay
Stated Clerk

OFFICERS OF THE CANADIAN PRESBYTERY

MODERATOR

(1 yr. term expires June 30, 2020)

Mr. John Rood
Grace Presbyterian Church
Woodstock, ON

VICE MODERATOR

(1 yr. term expires June 30, 2020)

Rev. John Shearouse
Covenant Reformed Presbyterian
Church
Halifax, NS

STATED CLERK

(3 yr. term expires June 30, 2022)

Mr. Bill McKay
Grace Presbyterian Church
Woodstock, ON

READING CLERK

(3 yr. term expires June 30, 2022)

Rev. Brian Murray
Grace Presbyterian Church
Woodstock, ON

TREASURER

(3 yr. term expires June 30, 2022)

Mr. Gary Armstrong
Grace Presbyterian Church
Woodstock, ON

CHURCHES OF THE CANADIAN PRESBYTERY **ASSOCIATE REFORMED PRESBYTERIAN CHURCHES IN CANADA**

MARITIME REGION

Covenant Reformed Presbyterian Church

Covenanters ARP Church

Grace Fellowship Church, ARPC

Mt. Zion ARP Church

Trinity Presbyterian Mission

ONTARIO REGION

Grace Presbyterian Church

Riverside ARP Church

Trinity ARP Church

Faith ARP Mission

Hope ARP Mission

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**MINUTES OF THE CANADIAN PRESBYTERY,
ASSOCIATE REFORMED PRESBYTERIAN CHURCHES IN CANADA,
2019 STATED FALL MEETING – September 26-27, 2019
Mt. Zion ARP Church (Moncton, NB)**

Thursday – September 26, 2019

The 2019 Stated Fall Meeting of the Canadian Presbytery was held on September 26 - 27, 2019 and hosted by the Mt. Zion ARP Church congregation (Moncton, NB). It is by God's grace and under His blessing that we gather as a court of His church. We give praise and thanks to God from whom all blessings flow.

Presbytery Convenes for 2019 Stated Fall Meeting

Mr. John Rood, the Moderator of the Canadian Presbytery (2019/20), called the presbyters to order at 8:15 a.m. and convened the 2019 Stated Fall Meeting of the Canadian Presbytery. Mr. Rood constituted the meeting of the Canadian Presbytery as a court of the church of Jesus Christ, with a scripture reading from Psalm 133 and prayer.

Greetings from the Host Congregation

On behalf of the congregation of Mt. Zion ARP Church, Rev. Michael Jaatinen extended warm greetings and salutations to the presbyters and guests of the Canadian Presbytery.

Calling of the Roll

<u>CHURCH</u>	<u>MINISTERS</u>	<u>RULING ELDERS</u>
<u>Maritime Region</u>		
Grace Fellowship ARP	VACANT	ABSENT
Covenant Reformed Presbyterian	Rev. John Shearouse	David Alexander
Covenanters ARP	Rev. Martin Dendekker	Peter Lindsay
Mt. Zion ARP	Rev. Michael Jaatinen	Bryant Flanagan
Trinity Presbyterian Mission	VACANT	Russell Lutes
<u>Ontario Region</u>		
Riverside ARP	Rev. Jerry Hamstra	Simon Oosterhof
Grace Presbyterian	Rev. Jeff Kingswood	Bill McKay
	Rev. Brian Murray	
	Rev. Robert Widdowson	
Trinity ARP	Rev. Henry Bartsch	John Moerman
Faith ARP Mission	Rev. Steve Richardson	Aaron Koning
Hope ARP Mission	Rev. Kevin Carter	ABSENT
<u>Other Ministers of Presbytery</u>		
Rev. Rick Barnes - ABSENT	Randy Lieuwen	John Rood (Moderator)
Rev. Jonathan Cowan		
Rev. Rudy deVries		
Dr. Frank Kovacs		
Rev. Richard Vander Vaart		
Dr. Bill Van Doodewaard		
Rev. Tom Van Maanen		

- Rev. Rick Barnes as well as Students Tim Collins, David Chi and John Nymann were absent.
- Grace Fellowship ARP (Sydney Mines, NS) and Hope ARP Mission (Kingston, ON) were not represented with Ruling Elders at this meeting.
- A quorum for this stated meeting was declared to be present with twenty-four (24) presbyters in attendance.

Mission Congregations

- **Motion:** It is moved by Outreach Canada to allow Ruling Elders from the Mission congregations of the Canadian Presbytery to fully participate in this meeting. **M/S/C**

Introduction of Visitors

The following guests were noted to be in attendance:

Jaclyn Armstrong

Peter Aiken (North American Presbytery Free Church of Scotland)

Ray Silver

Dr. Leslie Holmes (Moderator – ARP General Synod)

Introduction of Dr. Leslie Holmes (Moderator - ARP General Synod)

- **Motion:** To grant Privilege of the Floor to Dr. Leslie Holmes. **M/S/C**

Dr. Holmes addressed the court and brought greetings from the ARP General Synod. His charge to the court was a reminder that revival is necessary for the church to grow and it will come from the smallest sources and not the largest.

Introduction of Fraternal Delegates

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

Rev. Peter Aiken was introduced and given opportunity to bring greetings on behalf of the North American Presbytery of the Free Church of Scotland in Charlottetown, PEI.

Report of the Moderator (John Rood)

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. Steve Richardson and John Moerman were appointed to serve on the Moderator's Committee for Excuses and Resolutions.

Report of the Stated Clerk (Bill McKay)

1. Approval of the Minutes

- **Motion:** To approve the minutes from the June 20, 2019 Called Meeting of the presbytery as circulated. **M/S/C**

2. Manual of Procedure Revision

The revision to the Canadian Presbytery Manual of Procedure (moving the duties and responsibility of the Nominations Committee from M&HW to Stewardship/Congregational Life) was presented for Second Reading.

- **Motion:** To approve the revision of the Manual of Procedure as the Second Reading (moving the care of the Nominations Committee from M&HW to the Stewardship/Congregational Life Committee). **M/S/C**

➤ **The presbytery recessed at 9:30 a.m. for the day for Standing Committee Meetings**

COMMITTEE REPORTS

A. Moderator's Committees/Commissions

1. Grace Fellowship ARP Church Commission

The presbytery heard a verbal report from the Moderator's Commission regarding the request from Grace Fellowship ARP Church (Sydney Mines, NS) to withdraw from the Canadian Presbytery. The commission will be preparing a survey with pointed questions for the leadership of Grace Fellowship to fill out. This will help determine exactly what theological views the leadership holds and have been telling the members of the congregation. The process appears to be headed for another congregational vote to be held after February 18, 2020. That meeting will need to be conducted and observed by members of the commission for a final report and vote at the 2020 Stated Spring Meeting.

Rev. Kevin Carter offered prayer at this time for the congregation of Grace Fellowship ARPC.

B. Canadian Presbyterian Missions Committee (Rev. Henry Bartsch)

1. General Operation to Date

The committee has been operating for the better part of two years now and meets every month. The committee has gone through the process of making application for Charitable Status from the Canada Revenue Agency and has just been informed that they have received approval for their charitable status. The committee will now be able to issue tax receipts for donations, thus freeing the churches from this task. The committee will now begin the process of applicable charities (that Canadian ARP churches support) listed as possible "donees" in order that the committee can possibly support charity works outside of Canada.

2. Financial Report (SEE APPENDIX 1)

The 2019 Financial Report (year to date) with bank balances for the committee was presented for information only.

3. Missions Updates

a. Pakistan (SEE APPENDIX 2)

- **Motion:** The Canadian Presbytery recognizes Christian Hospital Sahiwal as a specific "mission point" of emphasis for the work of Canadian Presbyterian Missions. **M/S/C**

Bill and Janet McKay are currently preparing to leave for their next trip to Sahiwal, Pakistan on November 11, 2019. They will be serving again at CHS from November 13 – December 6, 2019. This is Janet's 11th trip and Bill's 10th since 2013. Janet's visa has been approved and Bill is still waiting to hear about his visa. It has been a year since they were last there, as they did not go in the Spring due to a health issue with Bill. Janet will continue teaching nursing skills with the staff and students and Bill will continue with his work in training the Spiritual Services team to better improve their ability to share the

gospel with the patients as well as conducting training for the pastors and elders serving on the hospital staff.

The following items are to be noted:

- The renovation of the Esther John Memorial Chapel has been completed and it is being well used. Generous donations have been received to make new furnishings for the chapel (such as pews and a communion table).
- The hospital has introduced their first class year for a BScN degree program. There are still 3 class years involved with the old RN certificate program.
- The hospital has received donations towards the purchase of more ophthalmological equipment.
- The hospital is hopefully moving ahead towards the purchase of a CT machine for improved diagnostic capabilities.
- There are still inquiries from local pastors about using the Basic Catechism program that was originally developed for the nursing school students, the hospital staff and their families.
- The children of the hospital staff who reside on the hospital campus are responding well to the teaching from Pastor Sohail (who is the minister for the CHS staff) and are excited about learning more of the catechism.
- Peter Lindsay prayed for the mission work at Christian Hospital Sahiwal, Bill and Janet McKay and Dr. Keith and Rhoda Ackerman.

b. Malawi (SEE APPENDIX 3)

Tom and Sandra Van Maanen are hopeful and excited with the prospect of returning to Malawi possibly in November 2019 to continue their work in that country. In their last visit they were successful in the purchase of a vehicle for their use while in Malawi and laying the groundwork for continued ministry opportunities in the future. Tom is developing and training two students for his work there in establishing a sustainable village/rural ministry that can flourish. The locals are very excited about the prospects of a future with hope.

The following items are to be noted:

- Pray for patience as Tom and Sandra continue to look for financial support to be raised to help send them to Malawi.
- Pray for wisdom to make good and correct decisions in working with the Malawian church.
- Pray that God will bless this mission work that the Canadian ARP undertook with Tom and Sandra.
- Pray for the leaders of the Malawian church as they work to build Malawian churches that are faithful in their doctrinal teaching and Reformed in their polity as Presbyterians.
- Rev. Jerry Hamstra offered prayer for Tom and Sandra Van Maanen and their work in Malawi.

4. Mission Conferences

The committee is continuing with their series of “Mission Conferences” throughout the Canadian churches to help motivate the Canadian congregations to engage in local evangelism and missions. These conferences will help raise awareness of the mission programs and the personnel of CPM. The conferences consist of talks on missions, prayer times, an information session on the work of the presbytery through CPM, and presentations from the current missionaries under the care of the presbytery.

Riverside ARP Church (Cambridge, ON) hosted the first conference in April (April 13-14) this year. Mt. Zion ARP Church is hosting the next conference this weekend (Sept. 28-29). Both missionary couples (McKay’s in Pakistan and Van Maanen’s in Malawi) will be present and making presentations on their respective ministries. The Van Maanen’s will also be speaking at some of the other Maritime region churches over the next several days.

C. STEWARDSHIP/CONGREGATIONAL LIFE (Simon Oosterhof)

1. 2019 Treasurer’s Report (SEE APPENDIX 4)

The Treasurer’s Report for 2019 (to date) was presented for information only.

2. Budget 2020 (SEE APPENDIX 5)

- **Motion:** To approve the proposed budget for fiscal year 2020 as presented. **M/S/C**
 - **Motion:** To increase the proposed budget for the Windsor church plant by \$5,000 to \$38,000. **M/S/C**
 - **Motion:** To approve the proposed budget for fiscal year 2020 as amended. **M/S/C**

3. Reimbursement Policy (SEE APPENDIX 6)

The committee introduced a revised policy statement regarding reimbursements for presbytery expenses. This policy will cover travel, synod meetings, and presbytery meetings. Some limitations presbytery expenses are as follows:

- a. Flights – up to \$500 round trip (\$250 for one way)
- b. Vehicle - \$125/day for rental plus \$0.15 for fuel. If using a personal vehicle - \$0.25/km. (maximum travel distance is 1,938 km = \$484.50)
- c. Hotel - \$120/night
- d. Food - \$50/day

- **Motion:** To approve the revised policy paper for presbytery expense reimbursement. **M/S/C**

4. Congregational Life Report

a) Session Minutes

- **Motion:** To approve the session minutes from the Maritime Region churches as examined and approved by the committee according to the Form of Government guidelines with corrections noted. **M/S/C**
- It was also noted that the session minutes from Grace Fellowship ARP (Sydney Mines, NS) were not presented for audit. They will not be expected to produce them for audit at the 2020 Stated Spring Meeting as they have previously petitioned the presbytery to leave the presbytery.

5. Report on “Church Membership and the Lord’s Supper” (SEE APPENDIX 7)

At the 2018 Stated Fall Meeting of the Canadian Presbytery, the Congregational Life Committee was tasked with developing a paper on “Membership and the Lord’s Supper” to answer the question as to why membership in the local church is a biblical and necessary point for the worthy participation in the Lord’s Supper. Rev. Jonathan Cowan completed this task and the resulting paper is presented to the presbytery for discussion.

- **Motion:** To approve and support the findings of this document; and further, commend Rev. Jonathan Cowan for his hard work; and further, to commend this completed study to the congregations of the Canadian Presbytery for their edification and study. **M/S/C**

D. **OUTREACH CANADA (Rev. Brian Murray)**

1. Redemption Prison Ministry

a) Rev. Richard Vander Vaart

A verbal report was given by Rev. Vander Vaart regarding his work with Redemption Prison Ministry in the Canadian federal penitentiaries in Eastern Canada. He has also just received his security clearance for his time to minister in the prisons. Rev. Vander Vaart and his wife have now settled in the Moncton area.

- Rev. Jonathan Cowan offered prayer for Rev. Vander Vaart, his family and his work with Redemption Prison Ministry.

2. Canadian Presbytery Mission Congregations

a. Faith ARP Mission (SEE APPENDIX 8)

Many great things are happening at Faith ARP, although Rev. Richardson also asked for prayer for the difficulties their congregation has suffered with several severe accidents to members of the congregation this year so far.

- Rev. Henry Bartsch offered prayer for the work of Rev. Steve Richardson and the congregation of Faith ARP.

The congregation of Faith ARP Mission has petitioned the Canadian Presbytery through Outreach Canada to be organized as a Particular Church of the Canadian Presbytery.

- **Motion:** To form a Moderator’s Commission to issue in all aspects of this matter of Faith ARP’s request to organized as a particular congregation of the Canadian Presbytery. **M/S/C**
- The Moderator’s Commission will consist of Rev. Brian Murray, Rev. Henry Bartsch, Wil Mijnders, John Moerman and Dennis Nenadov.

- **RECESS**

At 5:15 p.m., the presbytery recessed for the day.

- **Worship & Communion Service**

The presbyters and friends of the Canadian Presbytery gathered together again at 7:00 p.m. (September 26, 2019) in the sanctuary of Mt. Zion ARP Church, for a communion/worship service. Rev. Richard Vander Vaart presided over this communion service and Rev. Kevin Carter presented God’s Word from John 13: 1-11 to the congregation. A time of fellowship followed the worship service.

Friday, September 27, 2019

WORSHIP

At 8:45 a.m., the Presbytery gathered in the sanctuary for worship. Rev. Martin Dendekker presided and Student Randy Lieuwen brought the Word of God to the presbytery as he preached from Hebrews 1:1 – 2:4 (text from 2:1-4).

Presbytery Re-Convenes

At 9:40 a.m., following the worship service, Mr. Rood called the presbytery to order and re-convened the 2019 Stated Fall Meeting of the Canadian Presbytery with prayer.

Calling of the Roll

A quorum was declared to be present.

Introduction of Visitors

The following visitors were noted to be in attendance:

Peter Aiken (North American Presbytery Free Church of Scotland)

E. Minister and His Work Committee (Rev. Kevin Carter)

1. **Sermon Evaluation**

The sermon of Student Randy Lieuwen was discussed and critiqued. Several helpful suggestions were given to Mr. Lieuwen for his future sermons.

- **Motion:** To receive and sustain this sermon from Mr. Randy Lieuwen as his “Junior Sermon”. **M/S/C**

2. **Appointment of Standing Committees 2019/20 (SEE APPENDIX 9)**

The Standing Committees of presbytery for 2019/20 were presented.

- **Motion:** To approve the Standing Committee List for 2019/20 (effective October 1, 2019) as presented. **M/S/C**

3. **Brian Schouwstra**

An application from Grace Presbyterian Church was made on behalf of Mr. Brian Schouwstra for the Canadian Presbytery to consider receiving his past ministerial credentials from the United Reformed Church. The committee is taking this request under consideration and will most likely have more to report at the 2020 Stated Spring Meeting.

4. **Pastoral Call for Rev. Jonathan Cowan (SEE APPENDIX 10)**

A Pastoral Call from the Trinity ARP congregation (Chatham, ON) to Rev. Jonathan Troy Cowan to serve as an Associate Pastor in their congregation was presented and reviewed.

- **Rev. Cowan agreed to the terms of the call.**
- **Motion:** That the Canadian Presbytery confirms and approves of the terms of the Pastoral Call (as previously approved by the congregation of Trinity ARP Church - Chatham, ON and extended to Rev. Jonathan Troy Cowan); **M/S/**
 - **Motion:** To amend the motion to add that this pastoral call is to be reviewed in two years by the congregation and the presbytery; and further, that the presbytery is willing to commit funds for a two-year period to assist the work. **M/S/C**

- **Motion:** That the Canadian Presbytery confirms and approves of the terms of the Pastoral Call (as previously approved by the congregation of Trinity ARP Church - Chatham, ON and extended to Rev. Jonathan Troy Cowan); and further, this call is to be reviewed in two years by the congregation and the presbytery; and further, that the presbytery is willing to commit funds for a two-year period to assist the work. **M/S/C**
 - **Motion:** That a commission of the presbytery is appointed to oversee the Service of Installation of Rev. Jonathan Troy Cowan as the Associate Minister of Trinity ARP Church (Chatham, ON) on a date to be determined. **M/S/C**
 - The appointed commission will consist of Rev. Jerry Hamstra, Rev. Robert Widdowson, Rev. Jeff Kingswood, John Rood, Aaron Koning and Jon Van Dyk.
 - **Motion:** The Presbytery gives an additional \$5,000 for a two-year period to help supplement this proposed work in Windsor, ON. **M/S/C**
 - Dr. Bill VanDoodewaard offered prayer for Rev. Cowan and his family as well as the congregation at Trinity ARP for the work in Windsor, ON.
5. Students Under Care and Licentiatees
- a. Students Under Care
- i. David Chi
David is beginning his 3rd year of studies at GPTS and is doing very well with great improvement in his English skills. He spent the summer as an intern at Riverside ARP Church.
- ii. Randy Lieuwen
Randy is continuing his ministerial studies at Gillespie Divinity School in Woodstock, ON and is in his first year.
- iii. Tim Collins
Tim is continuing with his 2nd year of studies at Gillespie Divinity School in Woodstock, ON. He is also currently studying at Heritage Theological Seminary (Cambridge, ON) for his Hebrew and Greek studies.
- iv. John Nymann
John and his family are settled in Windsor, ON. He has begun his first year of study at Gillespie Divinity School in Woodstock, ON.
6. Other Ministers of Presbytery
- a. Rev. Jonathan Cowan
Rev. Cowan will be completing his position as Pulpit Supply at Grace OPC in Sheffield, ON, October 31, 2019. He is planning on moving his family to Chatham, ON will he will begin ministering at Trinity ARPC as the new Associate Pastor.
7. Licensing of Elders/Laymen to Preach
There is more work to do on this proposal and the committee will hopefully be able to present a report at the 2020 Stated Spring Meeting.

8. Candidate Application Form

The committee is working with CPM to develop a revised application procedure for both ministerial and missionary candidates so that the application process will be the same for either candidate. The Committee is recommending that for a potential missionary or missionary volunteer, CPM look to the local Session for spiritual care and that it focus on the suitability of the particular candidate for the task needed.

9. Chaplaincy Positions in the Canadian Military

Rev. Jonathan Cowan gave a written report regarding the task M&HW gave him of exploring chaplaincy endorsement in the Canadian Armed Forces. He reported that he had contacted PRCC, (the NAPARC endorsing body for the US Armed Services). They are excited to work with us towards future endorsement in the CAF. This is in the beginning stages of research.

10. Pastoral Care of Ministers

- **Motion:** The committee requests the Moderator make provision in the order of business for stated meetings to return to the practice of “exercises”, giving particular attention to pastoral care of presbyters to and from each other; and further, that the Minister and His Work committee be tasked with choosing the speakers and the topics.
M/S/C

11. Procedure of Applications for Student Bursaries

Rev. Martin Dendekker will work to put together a package of information for new students coming into the presbytery including information about the bursary, student attendance requirements, licensure exam questions, etc.

D. **OUTREACH CANADA (Rev. Brian Murray) – CONT’D.**2. Canadian Presbytery Mission Congregationsb. Hope ARP Mission (Kingston, ON) (SEE APPENDIX 11)

Rev. Kevin Carter gave an update on the ongoing work of Hope ARP Mission in Kingston. It is very encouraging with the contacts and the growth in numbers as well as the increase in the financial support from the congregation they have made over the few years they have been meeting.

- Rev. Jeff Kingswood offered prayer for Rev. Carter and the congregation of Hope ARP at this time.

On a secondary note, Sean Panjer (Grace Presbyterian Church) has offered his resignation from the provisional session.

- **Motion:** To move into Executive Session. **M/S/C**
- **Presbytery returned to Regular Session at this time**
- **Motion:** To accept Sean Panjer’s resignation as a member of the Provisional Session. **M/S/C**

c. Trinity Presbyterian Mission (Woodstock, NB) (SEE APPENDIX 12)

The Provisional Session continues to function as well as could be expected with Bryant Flanagan and Russell Lutes working with Rev. Michael Jaatinen as the moderator of the provisional session. The pulpit has been filled regularly with Rev. Jaatinen preaching

once per month as well as from Rev. Richard Vander Vaart twice per month. An elder from Mt. Zion has also attended once per month with a video of a sermon for Rev. Jaatinen. They have been able to hold one service every week. The bank account has increased slightly with financial support and they are financially stable. The provisional session is still working at establishing a proper membership roll. They have been in contact with Kurt Kafferlin (the former Clerk of Session) to work to get this established and will be reported at the 2020 Stated Spring Meeting. It was mentioned that there could also be the possibility of having some of the people from the Trinity congregation incorporated in a possible outreach/plant in north Fredericton in the future.

- Rev. Rudy de Vries offered prayer for Trinity Presbyterian Mission (Woodstock, NB) and the work of the Provisional Sessions.

3. Redemption Prison Ministry

b. Rev. Rudy de Vries

Rev. de Vries presented a verbal report regarding his ongoing work with Redemption Prison Ministry in the Canadian federal penitentiaries in Ontario. In his report, he shared both his joys and his struggles in this ministry.

- Dr. Frank Kovacs offered prayer for Rev. de Vries, his family and his work with Redemption Prison Ministry.

- **Motion:** to extend the Order of the Day to 12:20 pm. **M/S/C**

4. Canada for Christ 2030 – Windsor, ON

Since Windsor, ON has been identified in the past by Outreach Canada as a target city for a possible church plant, Trinity ARP (Chatham, ON) is moving ahead with their proposal to establish a “daughter church/plant” in Windsor jointly with the presbytery. The Nymann family is now located in Windsor and will be used as a focal point to establish a mission work in the city. With the congregation calling Rev. Cowan as an Associate Pastor, there is now an availability of pastoral resources from Trinity ARP to be devoted to the work. Rev. Bartsch and Rev. Cowan will work together (with the session and Outreach Canada) to try to establish a core group for the work to move ahead and be able to minister to the continuing needs of the Trinity ARP congregation in Chatham, ON.

F. Moderator’s Committees

1. Excuses and Absences

Excuses were received and approved from Rev. Rick Barnes as well as Students John Nymann, David Chi and Tim Collins.

- **Motion:** To accept the excuses as presented. **M/S/C**

2. Resolutions

The following motion from the Excuses and Resolutions Committee:

- **Motion:** *“Dear Session and congregation of Mt. Zion - The Canadian Presbytery of the ARP has enjoyed your friendship and fellowship during the course of our Presbytery meetings. The food prepared was plentiful, delicious, and served with warm kindness. Your care has been received with sincere thankfulness. May God bless your congregation with continued opportunities to serve in your community;*

*and further, we offer our congratulations on your 30th anniversary as a congregation. The Canadian Presbyters. **M/S/C***

- This note of gratitude will be printed in the bulletin of Mt. Zion ARP Church.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS

There was no unfinished business at this time.

NEW BUSINESS

1. Particular Church Reports

- **Motion:** That the presbytery request the Moderator to make provision in the order of business (for stated meetings) for up to 3 particularized churches from the opposite region where presbytery is being held, to give an oral report on the work the Lord is doing in their churches; and further, that prayer be offered on behalf of these churches; and further, that the Moderator select these churches in advance of the stated meetings. **M/S/C**

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

- April 2-3, 2020: Hope ARP Mission, Kingston, ON
- September 24-25, 2020: Covenanters' ARP Church, Cambridge, NS

ADJOURNMENT/ ANNOUNCEMENTS – CLOSING PRAYER AND BENEDICTION

Rev. John Shearouse prayed and presented the benediction.

The court adjourned at 12:15 a.m. with the singing of Psalm 133.

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

These minutes are respectfully submitted and attested by:

John Rood
Moderator

Bill McKay
Stated Clerk

Canadian Presbyterian Missions
Financial Statement

Account Balance (as of September 19, 2019): \$74, 843.57

Funds Breakdown:

Malawi: \$48,263.41

Pakistan: \$11, 012.72

General: \$12,242.60

We reimbursed the Van Maanen's \$27,270.86 for their time in Malawi for 2019.

APPENDIX 2 (SEPTEMBER/19)

PAKISTAN FALL - 2019

September 2019

1 Peter 4:11 If anyone speaks, let him speak as the oracles of God. If anyone ministers, let him do it as with the ability which God supplies, that in all things God may be glorified through Jesus Christ, to whom belong the glory and the dominion forever and ever. Amen.

It is that time of year where we are beginning preparations for our next trip to Christian Hospital Sahiwal in Pakistan. We are planning on serving in Pakistan in November through into December.

To begin this process we have filled out our visa applications and we ask you to keep that process in prayer for us. We truly missed not being there this spring as we were unable to go. We are very much looking forward to spending time with our Pakistani family in November!

We are always mindful of the situations God places us in. The public unrest from the past year seems to have dissipated and the situation in Pakistan seems to be following a more "normal" path. Of course, things can always change at a moment's notice. We are encouraged by the communications we receive from Dr. Keith and Rhoda Ackerman regarding the ongoing spiritual growth evidenced by the staff and students in their daily lives. We are seeing real change in their lives and in the witness they show their patients and families.

One item that is of answer to prayer and a great encouragement is that CHS has received a very generous donation. With this donation the nursing school hostel has a new freezer, a refrigerator, bread making machine, and a large commercial mixer, along with a much needed commercial sized dishwasher. The School of Nursing has 125 young women so these items are of great help to those who prepare meals for them. The hope is that we will

soon be able to extend the excess food making capacity to provide food not only for the students but also the patients of CHS and their families and the staff. The new equipment will allow for a much-needed increase in quality of food as well as the amount of food that can be produced each day.

This donation also made it possible for the purchase of a new piece of eye equipment for the hospital as well. The Optovue Company has collaborated with CHS to provide a brand new OCT machine with fundus camera. CHS will be the only facility in all of Pakistan to have such advanced eye diagnostic equipment. God is truly blessing the hospital through His stewards. We give thanks to God for the generous contributions and gifts that bless the work of CHS.

Janet plans to continue teaching and assisting the nursing staff and students in current evidence based nursing practices. She also plans to continue updating the policies and procedures in the Policy and Procedure Manual of CHS as directed by the Pakistan Nursing Council. As Dr. Ackerman previously wrote in the World Witness newsletter, 'Lives are being saved physically and spiritually through the medical and spiritual services at CHS.'

Bill plans to continue teaching the spiritual services team and pastors. I am planning on teaching a course to the Spiritual Services team based on the devotional study "Behold Your God" by Rev. John Snyder. I am also planning on working with the chaplains on the "Let's Study the Letters of John" by Ian Hamilton (published by Banner of Truth).

We are truly grateful for your continued prayers and financial support in this mission work. We cherish the prayers of the saints that are lifted up on our behalf. We will have more information to tell you as we get closer to our anticipated trip to CHS in November. In the meantime, below are some items for prayer.





In Christ's service,
Bill and Janet McKay

CHS Prayer List

- 1) Pray for continuing financial support for the Charity Program at CHS. Many people from the community come into the hospital with little or no means to pay for their health care and they are turned away from the regular area hospitals because of their inability to pay for medical services.
- 2) Pray for the Nancy Fulwood School of Nursing as they work to begin classes as a BScN program. Pray for the young women in residence there and the staff who teach them. There are over 100 young women in this program. Pray for their growth in knowledge of their studies and for their growth spiritually. Pray for strength for them to not be distracted by what they see and hear around them but that they will see the need to be diligent in their studies and to learn more of what God has planned for them.
- 3) Pray for the staff at CHS, as they are witnesses to members of the local and greater community as well as their families. Pray for grace for them to be personable and compassionate with these people. Pray for opportunities to "Let Jesus Shine" in their lives.
- 4) Pray for the administration and doctors on staff of the hospital that more Christian doctors may be found to serve at the hospital – that it would become a full service facility to the community and that, more importantly, it remains a witness to the greater glory of God in all that they say and do. Pray for more support for the CHS Physician Scholarship program to help train young Christians as physicians in Pakistan.
- 5) Pray for the projects that the hospital is undergoing in their pursuit for growth – to make the facility more efficient in its operations so that it can serve the community better and therefore be a great witness to the glory of God for His work.
- 6) Pray for the work of the Spiritual Services team as they are "the point of the spear" so to speak. Pray for the Holy Spirit to guide them in their work as every day this team has opportunity to connect with every patient and their families in the hospital as they offer prayer, witness and counseling of God's greater glory in our lives.
- 7) Pray for the missionaries on the field in Pakistan, Dr. Keith and Rhoda Ackerman at Christian Hospital Sahiwal, in their work as they serve the Lord and strive to do God's will. Pray for strength and wisdom for them in their work there.
- 8) Pray for us as we continue to prepare for this trip physically and spiritually. Pray that we will be godly examples of Christ while we spend our time with staff and patients. Pray that God's will be done in all that we say and do. Praise and thank God for all His many blessings in this ministry.

APPENDIX 3 (September/19)

Report to the Canadian ARP Mission Committee Sept 23, 2019

Att. Presbytery of Sept 26-27, 2019

Dear Brothers

I am pleased to report that the work in Malawi is ongoing in our absence. In our last trip I was blessed with the opportunity to teach two days a week at the newly formed Pastor Training Institute of Africa (PTIA). There were 10 students, and I taught a course on the church, and also biblical leadership within the church. We looked at the history of the church, the function and role of the church, and also the purpose and importance of the church. These things are critical in a society that has a low view of the church, and what is the church as the body of Christ. In regards to leadership within that body, we looked at the different functions of office and the biblical parameters of each office. Especially the role of elders. These men came from varied church backgrounds, so they learned a lot about biblical church government and leadership which they never knew or understood before. Many of our discussions were regarding the challenges of the church, and offices of the church in the context of their own country.

I am also thankful to the Lord for my colleague Bentry Mhango, who has now agreed to work with me in the ministry on the ground in the city of Lilongwe. Bentry has a Divinity degree from RTS Jackson, and has planted churches with Palmer Robertson in Zimbabwe for a number of years. He has been a close friend for several years and plans to be the pastor of the local church we hope to form by God's grace in the main city. To that end we began and formed a bible study group which meets every Lord's day in our homes. We worked through the attributes of God, what is the church, the Lord's prayer and now the book of Acts is currently being studied. Our attendance varies, but is consistently between 10-15 people and those who attend have been diligent to bring friends and family every week.

As in any new church planting work the beginning stages are hard and arduous work. Before we started, I spent almost every day (when not teaching) meeting people in the local mall in the area where we hope to establish our church, and saw a hunger for the gospel and a Christ focused ministry in the city, but little commitment. Part of the challenge of Africa is family ties and commitments such as marriages, funerals, and general family responsibilities, as well as their own church affiliation whatever that may be, which restrict people from attaching themselves with any kind of consistency to a church planting effort. We trust however as this is the Lord's work that we continue to press on in faith and that we will see a church planted here shortly.

In addition to this in God's providence I have been entrusted with two interns. Their story and how the Lord brought us together has already been told. However, through them we have begun to look at the challenges of a rural ministry, and how it can be sustained. In Africa most rural ministries (churches) are unsustainable as far as pastoral support and effective ministry, because the members are so poor, they cannot tithe, nor support functioning buildings for ministry. They can give labour, and food, but not financial support. As a result, many men leave the villages and go back to the city to find work. This leaves the villages destitute of pastors and spiritual leadership. In light of this we were able to find land about 1 hr. outside of the main city through Daniel (one of the interns) because this was his home village area. The local chiefs have been very excited and helpful in this endeavor. This has included giving us 7 acres of land at a very reduced price, and labor. We also just heard that they now donated more land to help out. The plan then is to develop this land with sustainable crops, and a variety of crops which would give income year-round, and would eventually be profitable enough for these two men to live off the proceeds as income, and also be able to put money back into the proposed church plant.

Our initial work here has been a weekly bible study and door to door evangelism. Both of these efforts have been richly blessed and we see a growing concern here as to laying the foundations of a future Presbyterian Reformed church which would serve this area. In addition to this we know due to my daily/weekly reports from the field that the village chiefs have asked for this work to expand. This includes areas of language lessons, education, training and expanded bible studies addressing the many areas of concern that plague local villages. Including child marriages, basic economics, farming methods etc. My wife Sandra is doing extensive work in these varied areas of ministry how she can help as she has had experience in Nyenyezi in the past. We are happy to report that we have a young lady (Miranda King) who has expressed a great interest to come to Malawi and help in the area of education. Principally preschool. Sandra will be working with her to develop some sort of plan and future curriculum. This work in Linthipe, I should make clear is under the auspices of both Bentry and I as elders, and is the evangelism outreach and work of the local church which is now being formed in Lilongwe.

Our work in Malawi is beginning to take a more definitive plan since the arrival of Pastor Confex Makhalaria in Malawi. As you know we have been discussing these plans with Confex for some years now. He has now joined

with MTW (PCA) as their missionary to Malawi, as well as forming together with his home church in Michigan an organization called MRN. Now that he has come back to Malawi after 6 years in America, we hope to see the work progress to a point where there will be a church formed in both Blantyre and Lilongwe. In addition, we hope to see a training center started soon, since there are several men now recruited as interns under MRN funding. My function and role as a missionary of the Canadian ARP, as I understand it, is to assist where needed in both these efforts as part of the ruling eldership session, and pastor/ trainer of the internship program.

As we see this work growing and the Lord blessing what has been done to this point, we kindly request that the Canadian Presbytery through the auspices of CPM, change our status to full time missionaries. There are some practical reasons for this in regards to health care coverage, but principally for the necessity to be there and assist as needed with the ongoing work and challenges of fulltime ministry. This would also free me up from having to find fulltime/part-time work upon our return each time. We trust that the Lord will continue to provide the necessary funds that we can be there at least 9 months of the year, and use the remaining months in furlough raising awareness in our churches in Canada and abroad of the progress of the work.

In Christ's service
Pastor Tom Van Maanen

APPENDIX 4 (September/19)

2019 Canadian Presbytery Treasurer's Report

**Associate Reformed Presbyterian Churches
in Canada**

Treasurer's Report

for the period ending September 23, 2019

Expense Fund	Denominational Ministry Fund (Canadian Presbyterian Mission)		Canadian Church Development Trust (Outreach Canada)		Total All Funds	Total All Funds
	Actual	Actual	Actual	Actual	2019	2018
RECEIPTS						
Covenant Reformed	\$ 100.00	\$ 100.00	\$ 1,996.10	\$ 2,196.10	\$ 717.00	
Covenanters	2,066.30	-	-	2,066.30	4,757.05	
Faith Presbyterian	-	-	-	-	2,710.00	
Grace Fellowship, NS	-	-	-	-	5,700.00	
Grace Presbyterian, ON	-	-	24,492.30	24,492.30	42,770.37	
Mount Zion	-	-	-	-	-	
Reformed Hungarian	-	-	-	-	-	
Riverside	2,500.00	500.00	9,068.00	12,068.00	5,554.00	
Trinity Chatham, ON	2,000.00	2,500.00	2,500.00	7,000.00	2,500.00	
Trinity Woodstock, NB	-	-	-	-	-	
Interest	-	-	-	-	-	357.32
TOTAL RECEIPTS	<u>6,666.30</u>	<u>3,100.00</u>	<u>38,056.40</u>	<u>47,822.70</u>	<u>65,065.74</u>	
DISBURSEMENTS	Budget	Budget	Budget	Budget		
Church plants - Kingston	-	-	42,000.00	42,000.00	40,000.00	
Church plants - Tillsonburg	-	-	-	-	18,000.00	
Church plants - Windsor	-	-	-	33,000.00	-	
CPM Mission Committee & Pakistan	-	10,000.00	-	-	4,378.30	
Computer	-	-	-	-	-	
Travel	5,616.81	3,000.00	-	-	4,984.32	
Moderator/Clerk/Treasurer Travel	435.30	2,000.00	-	-	639.07	
Telephone, teleconference calls	520.32	1,200.00	-	-	818.88	
Treasurer's Work, Postage, Bank Chgs, Office	-	500.00	-	-	-	
Student Bursaries & Expenses	4,000.00	6,000.00	-	-	-	
Professional fees	-	1,000.00	-	-	-	
Miscellaneous (Including moving costs)	250.28	8,000.00	-	-	250.28	2,500.00
TOTAL DISBURSEMENTS	<u>10,822.71</u>	<u>21,700.00</u>	<u>10,000.00</u>	<u>75,000.00</u>	<u>52,822.71</u>	<u>71,320.57</u>
Excess - Receipts over Disbursements	<u>(4,156.41)</u>	<u>\$ (21,700.00)</u>	<u>3,100.00</u>	<u>\$ (10,000.00)</u>	<u>(3,943.60)</u>	<u>\$ (75,000.00)</u>
Bank and Investments - January 1	26,481.23	25,023.50	110,599.90	156,936.25	163,191.08	
Bank and Investments - Current	<u>\$ 22,324.82</u>	<u>\$ 28,123.50</u>	<u>\$ 106,656.30</u>	<u>\$ 151,936.24</u>	<u>\$ 156,936.25</u>	
Represented by:						
Bank Balance				\$ 46,792.01	\$ 56,792.02	
Investment Certificates				105,144.23	100,144.23	
Total Funds				<u>\$ 151,936.24</u>	<u>\$ 156,936.25</u>	

APPENDIX 5 (September/19)

2020 Proposed Budget

	2016 Budget	2017 Budget	2018 Budget	2019 Budget	2020 Budget
Outreach Canada					
Hope Church - Kingston	\$ 35,000.00	\$ 42,000.00	\$ 40,000.00	\$ 42,000.00	\$ 40,000.00
Tillsonburg	\$ 25,000.00	\$ 10,000.00	\$ 8,000.00	\$ -	\$ -
Windsor				\$ 33,000.00	\$ 38,000.00
Overseas Missions (DMF now CPM)					
CPM	\$ 7,500.00	\$ 6,600.00	\$ 10,000.00	\$ 10,000.00	\$ -
Presbytery Expense Fund					
Presbytery Travel	\$ 3,000.00	\$ 3,000.00	\$ 3,000.00	\$ 3,000.00	\$ 4,000.00
Moderator/Clerk/Treasurer Travel	\$ 2,000.00	\$ 2,000.00	\$ 2,000.00	\$ 2,000.00	\$ 2,000.00
Telephone & Teleconference	\$ 1,200.00	\$ 1,200.00	\$ 1,200.00	\$ 1,200.00	\$ 1,000.00
Treasurer's Work, Bank, Audit, Post	\$ 500.00	\$ 500.00	\$ 500.00	\$ 500.00	\$ 500.00
Student Bursaries	\$ 2,500.00	\$ 2,500.00	\$ 2,500.00	\$ 6,000.00	\$ 8,000.00
Professional Fees	\$ 2,000.00	\$ 2,000.00	\$ 2,000.00	\$ 1,000.00	\$ 1,000.00
Cowan Family Moving				\$ 8,000.00	
	\$ 78,700.00	\$ 69,800.00	\$ 69,200.00	\$ 106,700.00	\$ 94,500.00
Change YOY				\$ 37,500.00	-\$ 17,200.00

Stewardship Reimbursement Policy 2019

1. Notes on this policy:
 - a. All reimbursement amounts listed in this policy are intended to be a maximum amount. Exceptions can be made on a case-by-case basis at the discretion of the Chairman of Stewardship or the committee. If you know ahead of your travel that you will require reimbursement exceeding the listed amounts contact the chairman of Stewardship prior to booking any travel.
 - b. Unless otherwise stated all dollar figures in this policy are in CAD.
 - c. Reimbursement will only be given after receipts are submitted along with the expense form to the chair of Stewardship. If you do not have the form email the chair of Stewardship to get the form.
 - d. A list of reimbursements paid out will be reviewed at each Presbytery meeting by the Stewardship Committee.

2. Travel
 - a. Where possible, requests for financial assistance should be submitted to the Chairman of Stewardship a minimum of 4 weeks prior to the date of travel.
 - b. Presbyters and Students under care are encouraged to travel as economically as possible (Carpool, Billet, etc.). Churches are encouraged to reach out to those who are serving out of bounds or without call and ensure they have travel arranged.
 - c. Presbytery
 - i. Ministers, Ministers serving out of bounds, or Elder delegates travelling for Presbytery who's travel is not covered by their home church, or who do not have a home church, can request assistance up to the following amounts:
 1. Flights: \$500 for round trip or \$250 one way.
 2. Vehicle: \$125/day for rental & \$0.15/km for fuel. If using personal vehicle \$0.25/km. (max travel distance 1,938 km = \$484.50
 3. Hotel: \$120/night.
 4. Food: \$50/day
 - ii. Students under care who are required to attend a Presbytery meeting can request assistance up to the same amounts listed in section i. As students are required to attend one Presbytery meeting per year, they are encouraged to attend the meeting closest to their place of residence unless otherwise requested.
 - iii. Elders who are not a delegate to Presbytery but are required to be there for other reasons (such as holding an executive position) can request assistance for the same amounts listed in section i.
 - b. Synod
 - i. Ministers, Ministers serving out of bounds, or Elder delegates travelling for Presbytery who's travel is not covered by their home church, or who do not have a home church, can request assistance up to the following amounts:
 4. Flights: \$750 for round trip or \$400 one way.

5. Vehicle: \$125/day for rental & \$0.15/km for fuel. If using personal vehicle \$0.25/km.
 6. Hotel: \$120/night.
 7. Food: \$50/day
- ii. Ministers, Ministers serving out of bounds, or Elders who hold an executive position for Synod who require travel assistance should first request it from Synod.

c. Other travel

- i. Ministers, Ministers serving out of bounds, or Elders who are required to travel for Presbytery business outside of regularly stated meetings can request assistance up to the following amounts:
 4. Flights: \$750 for round trip or \$400 one way.
 5. Vehicle: \$125/day for rental & \$0.15/km for fuel. If using personal vehicle \$0.25/km.
 6. Hotel: \$120/night.
 7. Food: \$50/day

3. Student bursaries

- a. Bursaries are to be administered by the M&HW Committee in coordination with the Stewardship Committee (See MOP).
 - i. M&HW must evaluate the needs of students and report to Stewardship.
 - ii. Stewardship is to evaluate based on Presbytery resources and established rates.
- b. Rates: \$250 per course up to a max of \$1000 per semester.

APPENDIX 7 (September/19)

Church Membership and the Lord's Supper

Grace and peace from God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ. Our presbytery in the Fall Meeting of 2018 instructed the Congregational Life Committee to write "...a statement...for all our churches in the Canadian Presbytery as to why membership in a local church is a biblical and necessary point for the worthy participation in the Lord's Supper, as is stated in The Directory of Public Worship V.B.B.c (5d)."

It is our hope that this paper will answer some questions that have been raised in various churches as to why, during the fencing of the Lord's Supper, there is an emphasis on membership in local churches. The understanding and priority of formal church membership has declined across many protestant denominations in North America. This can be seen in the resurgence of material explaining its necessity. For instance, a quick Google search yields telling results. A 2011 9Marks Journal (available online) was devoted to church membership. The authors range from Baptist to Presbyterian. In 2014, the Gospel Coalition posted an article on the necessity of church membership. In 2015 Christianity Today posted an article on why church membership matters. In 2017 the International Mission Board (SBC) posted a multi-part series titled "Yes, the Bible Does Teach Church Membership".¹ These brief examples show that the struggle of church membership crosses denominational lines. These articles all deal from their varying theological stances with the reality that church membership is no longer assumed within a local congregation. It is, therefore, not surprising that church membership as a requirement for participation in the Lord's Supper is a concern. If one comes into the ARP from a denomination where church membership is not taught or stressed, the way the Lord's Supper is fenced in the ARP can raise questions. Our hope is that this paper will show the necessity of membership in a local church body for worthy participation in the Lord's Supper.

Our denomination is governed by our confessional Standards, so we will begin with them. First as is noted in the charge from our presbytery, that our Directory of Public Worship states: *"Those who are not members of the Visible Church and others who should not partake of the sacrament may be invited to remain during the administration of the sacrament. They should be encouraged to meditate prayerfully upon the gracious offer of salvation in the Gospel and their own spiritual need."* (DPW V.B.8.c(5d))

It is interesting to note the difference between our current directory and the one prepared in Edinburgh in 1645. In regards to the Lord's Supper the charge in 1645 was given with respect to "...the people committed to their charge." In 1645 as the Presbyterian Church instructed in worship the assumption of membership can clearly be seen in the wording of this section. There is no mention of individuals not being members of a church. It was assumed that those who gathered together were members (communicant or non-communicant); therefore the only warning is given to those who are: "The ignorant and the scandalous..."

¹ See: <https://www.gmarks.org/journal/church-membership-holdins-body-together/>; <https://www.thegospelcoalition.org/article/is-church-membership-really-required/>; <https://www.christianitytoday.com/edstetzer/2015/july/membership-matters-3-reasons-for-church-membership.html>; <https://www.imb.org/2017/10/25/whv-everv-healthy-church-practices-membership-part-1/>;

We can see with these two directories much has changed in our understanding and cultures in

400+ years. Today we must define the visible church to ascertain who is not a member. We, therefore, turn first to our confession, which states:

"The visible church, which is catholic or universal under the gospel (not confined to one nation, as before under the law), consists of all those through the world that profess the true religion, together with their children, and is the kingdom of the Lord Jesus Christ, the house and family of God out of which there is no ordinary possibility of salvation " (WCF 25.II)

Here we clearly see the visible church consists of all through the world that profess the true religion, together with their children (non-communicant members). This can at first appear to muddy the water. It speaks of a broad body. Can this broad body be defined or contained? Some who argue against church membership in a local body claim membership in the "global or universal Church". They often argue that because these individuals profess faith in Christ they should participate in the Lord's Supper regardless of being united to a local body or not. They argue the larger nebulous body as superior to the local body. By their words, actions, and thinking they pit the large nebulous body against the tangible local body. Some go so far as to see little importance of the local body. Is this what our confession allows? At first glance it may appear that our confession is merely concerned with the larger body, yet our confession does not stand alone.

Our larger catechism (LC) helps to shed light on our understanding of the visible church as expressed in our confession. Question 62 states:

Q. 62. What is the visible church?

A. The visible church is a society made up of all such as in all ages and places of the world do profess the true religion, and of their children.

Question 62 helps define the visible church. It is: "...a society made up of all such as in all ages and places of the world do profess the true religion, and of their children. " (emphasis added)

Question 62 clearly shows that the visible church is made up of local tangible bodies. This is revealed the following phrases; the visible church is made up of "all such" (referring to multiple bodies) in "all ages and places"² that profess the true religion and their children. From Question 62 we see that for the visible church to exist there must always be local churches.

However, one could argue that there is still no clear call for membership within a local church. Question 63 of our larger catechism aids us here:

Q. 63. What are the special privileges of the visible church?

A. The visible church hath the privilege of being under God's special care and government; of being protected and preserved in all ages, notwithstanding the opposition of all enemies; and of

² This refers to the church being continuously on the earth and spreading through the earth [see Daniel 9]

enjoying the communion of saints, the ordinary means of salvation, and offers of grace by Christ

to all the members of it in the ministry of the gospel, testifying, that whosoever believes in him shall be saved, and excluding none that will come unto him.

Question 63 deals with the special privilege the visible church has. Having already established in question 62 the visible church is a society made up of all such that do profess the true religion and their children. Question 63 helps us further define these local bodies. The visible church has "... *the privilege of being under God's special care and government...* ". While question 62's use of "*society*" hints at law, order and citizenship, question 63 clearly lays this out with the word "*government*".

With these two questions in the larger catechism it is clear that the visible church is not some nebulous body, but one defined as a society governed by God, made up of all through the world that do profess the true religion together with their children.

So local churches are a necessity, but can formal membership be inferred from our standards? When we look at the scripture proofs used in the larger catechism the answer is a resounding yes. The scripture proof for God's special care and government in LC 63 begins with Isaiah 4:5-6:

⁵ *And the LORD will create upon every dwelling place of Mount Zion, and upon her assemblies, a cloud and smoke by day, and the shining of a flaming fire by night; for upon all the glory shall be a defense.* ⁶ *And there shall be a tabernacle for a shadow in the daytime from the heat, and for a place of refuge, and for a cover from storm and from rain. (Isa 4:5-6 KJV)*

Verse 5 shows the extent and limit of God's special governance. While God rules over all, he has a special care for His covenant people³. Verse 5 highlights God's special governance using the imagery of the Exodus. His special care is represented by the cloud and the fire over Mount Zion and every dwelling place of Mount Zion as the KJV and NKJV put it. The ESV renders it "over the whole site". The Hebrew can be rendered "Fixed, established place or foundation". The three translations show that the limit of God's covenant care is all of Mount Zion. Mount Zion is in reference to God's covenant people. Within Mount Zion there is no one excluded from the covenant care of our God. We see here the very idea of covenant membership. One in the community of Zion is under the covenant care of God and therefore is called to account. Our larger catechism uses Isaiah 4:5-6 to show that those under the government of God are under His covenant care. They are obligated to Him and God has declared that they will be blessed by His rule and protection. In this we see that God's governance alludes to membership within a covenant community. There are rights and responsibilities given.

One is brought into a community and is called to account because of the covenant. One who dwells in Mount Zion has all the right and privileges bestowed on everyone else in Mount Zion. One does not wander in and out of Mount Zion. One does not pitch their tent on the periphery of God's people and get to pick and choose how they participate. One is either in Mount Zion and

³ See I Timothy 4:10 which is also another scripture proof for LC 63

⁴ 4388 (pg. 467 Brown, Driver, Briggs)

therefore under the glory of God and His protection or one is outside. While this goes against the modern evangelical concept of the church today, it is the confessional understanding of the church.

The very idea of membership is also alluded to throughout the New Testament. Several of our ministers have written pamphlets on this very topic for their congregations. While this paper will not repeat all their work, it will highlight some obvious ones in scripture.⁵

First, scripture acknowledges regional and local bodies. This is often found in the greetings of the New Testament letters. For instance, compare the letter to the churches in Galatia (Gal. 1:2) and the letter to the Colossians (Col. 4:16) or Peter's greetings (1 Peter 1:1) and Paul's greetings in Romans 16:3-16. Romans 16 is a fascinating study on membership, for Paul clearly talks of churches of Christ (see verses 4 and 16). In those two verses Paul speaks of the churches of the Gentiles (v 4), then all the churches of Christ (v 16). For Paul the church was one but also many, with which our confession clearly agrees. From just the greetings we see the apostles understanding of the visible church being made of many local bodies.

Second, churches within the New Testament are generally addressed as a whole. The "you" in scripture is often plural but in modern English we have no second person plural to reveal this distinction. The corporate body is always addressed in the commands. The assumption is that in ordinary circumstances the individual cannot exist without the corporate body. In our North American context this has been lost due to the individualistic emphasis of our cultures. Sinclair Ferguson notes this shift this way: We move from the individual to the corporate, the microcosm to the macrocosm. Paul's teaching moves in the opposite direction. Once this is grasped, the necessity of church association for true sanctification becomes self-evident "⁶ Here is the covenantal view of scripture. One is brought into the covenant family of God and therefore needs the local body. We are not spiritual families on our own but are united to local bodies that make up the greater whole.

So scripture implies by its greetings and commands that individuals and families are a part of corporate bodies, but does scripture speak to formal membership? Here we must remember what our confession states about scripture: "The whole counsel of God, concerning all things necessary for his own glory, man's salvation, faith, and life, is either expressly set down in scripture, or by good and necessary consequences may be deduced from Scripture, '...'" (WCF ch. 1 .VI). It is therefore not necessary to have a direct verse declaring "You shall be a member of a church". Formal membership can be deduced from several passages in the Scripture. To quote a fraternal denomination in their work on this:

The supreme model for our membership roll is the membership roll of Heaven (Exodus 32:32,22,; Daniel 12:1; Luke 10:20; Philippians 4:3; Revelation 13:8; 20:12,15). The Biblical pattern is for new believers to be "numbered" or added to" to the rolls of the local

⁵ Rev. Carter, Rev. Shearouse, and Rev. Cowan have all written pamphlets on the importance of church membership and I would encourage our presbytery to use them and also other helpful resources. For instance Chapter 2 in *Life in the Father's House: A Member's Guide to the Local Church* by Wayne Mack and Dave Swavely speaks directly and pointedly to the importance of church membership. Also see all the articles referenced in footnote 1 as well as addendum 1

⁶ Sinclair Ferguson, *Some Pastors and Teachers*, (Edinburgh, UK: The Banner of Truth Trust) p.550
church (Acts 2:41,47; 6:7; 1 Timothy 5:9). Members could be taken away from the roll

(1Corinthians 5:2) this indicates more than being physically barred, since even unbelievers could attend worship (1Corinthians 14:23) - or reinstated (2 Corinthians 2:6-7); it is impossible to have coherent discipline without such a roll...⁷

Scripture reveals that these local societies (using the word of LC 62) are under the authority of elders (1Peter 5; James 5; Titus 1). Hebrews 13:7 calls upon congregations to remember their leaders who spoke the Word of God. While not using the Greek word for elders, it alludes to elders as it states the leaders spoke the Word of God to them. Who else does this, but the ministers/elders? In Verse 17 there is a call to submit to leaders. Again, it is not the word for elders; yet listen to how they are described: "Obey those who rule over you, and be submissive, **for they watch out for your souls, as those who must give account...**" (Heb. 13:17 NKJ emphasis added). Compare this to Acts 20:28; 1 Thessalonians 5:12-13, and James 3:1 and one can easily see the leaders mentioned in Hebrews fit the role of elders as described in other letters.

Scripture, therefore, not only speaks of local churches but that those churches are governed by elders. From the wording of scripture one can see that members were formally bound to those congregations. It was not a loose affiliation. As stated above in the quote from the PCA, how could it be a loose affiliation when the church is called to practice discipline, to submit to one another, to care for each other? From the very instructions given to the multiple churches addressed by the letters in the new Testament, one can see the church was a society (LC 62) that was governed (LC 63) by the appointed leaders. We can therefore deduce that there was formality to the local societies and it is only right and confessional to expect the same today.

Just as in the days of ancient Israel when not all could fully partake in the worship of God unless they were members in the covenant community, so in the church today not all can come to the Lord's Supper and participate. Participation in the Sacrament of the Lord's Supper is reserved for those acknowledged by the church as communicant members. All may observe, and should. Only those affirmed by the church as communicant members should participate. Therefore, it is right that our Book of Discipline states that only members of the visible church can participate.

Who are those members? They are those who have been brought into communicant membership of a local body of Christ. How does one define that local body? We turn to our confession, specifically Chapter 25, section 4, that defines particular churches as those where "*...the doctrine of the gospel is taught and embraced, ordinances administered and public worship performed more or less purely in them.*"⁸

⁷ See section g in addendum 1.

⁸ Those coming into the ARP from other reformed traditions will note the marks of the church are defined differently in the Westminster Standards. For instance, word and discipline are combined together in "the doctrine of the gospel is taught and embraced." The emphasis on the "gospel taught and embraced" reveals that the Word must not only be transmitted properly, but rightly received by the hearers. Public worship is emphasized since it is through public worship the gospel will be encountered and rightly received. Finally, the Westminster Standards recognize our fallibility and imperfections by stating it is all "more or less pure". This final phrase is not giving acceptance to poor orthodoxy or orthopraxy but a recognition that until Christ returns the visible church will always be reforming.

To participate in the Lord's Supper, therefore, we fence the table by stating that those who can participate must be a communing member of the visible church. We can further define this by using words like "gospel believing" or "protestant" or "evangelical" since these words are used to broadly encompass WCF 25.4.⁹ What is clear from both our confession and scripture is that ordinarily one must have membership in a local body in order to be a part of the visible body of Christ.¹⁰ Therefore, it is right to not only fence the table as stated in our Book of Public Worship, but to encourage and exhort all to be members of a local church.

Those who do not desire to be members of a local body should, therefore, be lovingly warned and also pursued not only by the elders but the members of the local church. The Lord's Table is a privilege and right given to God's covenant people and our desire is that all God's people who are in good standing are able to participate in this gift.

⁹ *While this is beyond the scope of this paper it may be good to explore a common wording or phrasing within our presbytery to define local churches that express the true faith. We live in a day where "church" is widely used and embraced by cults and those rejecting orthodox teachings.*

¹⁰ *It is acknowledged that there are extraordinary circumstances that arise around the globe and throughout history where due to persecution and extreme circumstances there may not be an established local body of Christ. This paper is not examining this process from the extraordinary but the ordinary. Through the testimony of scripture it is clear that God's design for the church is local bodies made up of local members worshipping the Lord.*

Addendum 1

While this paper is not from the ARP, the PCA is a fraternal denomination and we can learn from like-minded brothers who have dealt with this very issue.

Minutes of the PCA's Twenty-First General Assembly (June 7-11, 1993), pp. 141-142

On the Necessity of Church Membership in Order to Participate in the Lord's Supper

That Overture 25 . . . [requesting amendment to BCO 58-4 to allow non-church members to the Lord's Table] be answered in the negative, and instruct the Stated Clerk to communicate the following grounds...:

- a. In recognition that this is the "Lord's table," 1 Corinthians 10:21, not the table of one church only, BCO 58-4 permits "open communion," that is, allowing members in good standing of any evangelical church to partake; and "close communion," which permits only those members of other churches who have been examined and approved by the Session to partake. (It does not permit "closed communion," the practice of excluding all but members of the particular congregation).
- b. In the judgment of charity, we believe that other evangelical churches have examined and found credible the faith of their members and, on the basis of this presumed approval, in "open communion" we invite members of other churches to the Lord's table in our midst. In "close communion," the Session of a particular church itself determines the credibility of a visitor's profession of faith. There is no such available assessment in this life for members of the Invisible Church.
- c. Baptism is into a community of believers, that is a church. Unbaptized people certainly should not be permitted to come to the Table. Of course unbaptized people credibly professing faith in Christ and seeking admittance to the Table should be baptized with all proper speed, and thereupon admitted to the Table. At this point, these communicants are baptized members of a visible church.
- d. One cannot love Christ and eschew His bride. The credible profession of persons unwilling to unite to Christ's Church must be questioned. Any sinful unwillingness to unite with Christ's people should be addressed pastorally (Hebrews 10:25; 1 Corinthians 10:16-17). Those unwilling to unite to Christ's Church are outside the visible body of Christ.
- e. One cannot be subject to Christ and not be subject to the government He has appointed in His Church. Believers become subject to the government of the Church through their covenantal vows of membership (Ephesians 4:11-12; Hebrews 13:17; 1 Thessalonians 5:12-13).
- f. Church discipline is necessary for properly maintaining the Lord's Table; such discipline is unavailable apart from membership in a visible church.
- g. This overture implies that there is no biblical ground for the keeping of a roll of members of the visible church, and therefore of people who may partake of the church's sacrament. However, the clear evidence of Scripture is that the church should keep a roll of members. The supreme model for our membership roll is the membership roll of heaven (Exodus 32:32,33; Daniel 12:1; Luke 10:20; Philippians 4:3; Revelation 13:8; 20:12,15). The Biblical pattern is for new believers to be "numbered" or "added to" the rolls of the local church (Acts 2:41,47; 6:7; 1 Timothy 5:9). Members could be taken away from the roll (1 Corinthians 5:2)—this indicates more than being physically barred, since even unbelievers could attend Christian worship (1 Corinthians 14:23)—or reinstated (2 Corinthians 2:6-7); it is impossible to have coherent discipline without such a roll. There was a widow's roll for diaconal purposes (1 Timothy 5:9).

APPENDIX 8 (September/19)

Faith Presbyterian Church

Stephen Richardson

14 Glendale Drive. Tillsonburg, ON. N4G 1J2 W. (519) 688-5111
faithpresbyteriantillsonburg@gmail.com

September 2019

Dear brothers, greetings in the name of our great and worthy King. I am thankful to again be able to give an update and share what the Lord has been doing here in Tillsonburg in recent months.

Membership: In 2019 so far we have received 14 new members, 10 by transfer and 4 by profession of faith. We are thankful to God for the birth and baptism of 5 babies.

We are sad to report that the Bartsch family were excommunicated and another couple have been barred from the Lord's table.

Also, Yasha Fard has been received as a student under care with the RPC AP. He and his family will continue to attend Faith while being under the care of the interim session of the RPC AP.

Preaching: In our morning service I have been preaching a series on "the Christian" and in the afternoon I am continuing to preach through Matthew.

The Provisional Session: We continue to meet once a month. In July Mr. John Vander Deen was ordained for the office. We thank God for his willingness to serve and the gifts God has given to him.

Mr. Alex Beard continues his two year sabbatical from his duties.

Diaconate: We are praying that the Lord would provide a man for this office. Two men are in training.

Treasurer: Rita Ferguson continues to serve as the treasurer. **Missions:** The congregation has allocated \$11,000 in the 2019 budget toward missions. Our second collection has also been designated towards Missions for the majority of the year. **Finances:** As of August 31, 2019 we have a balance of \$96,000.

Venue: We continue to meet for worship in Tillsonburg at 14 Glendale Drive. **Evangelism:** Our Open Doors outreach program continues.

Please pray:

For the Faber family. In July Richard was in a serious motorcycle accident. He collided with a transport truck which pulled out in front of him. He sustained life threatening injuries, but has improved wonderfully and is now home. For this we are very thankful. Richard still has a long road to recovery ahead. Please pray for a full recovery, but pray particularly that the Lord would use this hard trial to draw this man and his family into closer communion with God.

For Jen Zwiep and her 3 girls that the Lord would continue to sustain them and comfort them in their sorrow. It has been almost a year since Matt's death.

For Otto Kouwen. His parents faithfully attend Faith and he occasionally. In August he was also in a motorcycle accident. His femur was broken but otherwise he escaped largely unharmed. Pray that he would learn to fear God and to number his days.

For Justin White. His wife Danelle is a member of Faith. He was in a work related accident and sustained serious burns to his face. Pray for pain relief but pray especially that he would be saved.

For our congregation. Since last August there have been a number of serious accidents. Two were fatal. If I include the work related accident four resulted in injury and hospitalization. Two others were serious, though there were no injuries. For a small congregation it feels like a lot all at once. Pray that God would keep us faithful, and that we would put our hands to our mouths and confess with humility, "It is the LORD, let Him do what seems good to Him."

For members under church discipline, that they may be restored.

That God would soften hearts among those with whom we have contact. Pray in particular for Joseph, Bob and Jordan.

That the Lord would raise up deacons.

That our young families would bring their children up in the nurture and admonition of the Lord, and they might not grow weary in well doing.

That through the work of Faith many believers would be added to the Lord.

That I would be an example to the congregation. Pray, too, that I would grow in my love for them, and that He would help me to be a faithful watchman and undershepherd to His people.

I have been slowly working my way through Thomas Murphy's *Pastoral Theology*. It has reminded me of the vital importance of personal piety, the hidden life of prayer, and regular visitation. I would ask prayer in these 3 areas. I have not been faithful in visiting the congregation, and I have realized that I have often been more careful of my reputation than I have been of my hidden life with God. Pray that I may be kept from hypocrisy, that I might fight a good fight and so finish my course with joy having persevered to the end.

Pray also for my ministry to my family that I would not neglect them in the midst of busyness.

Yours in the matchless love of Christ, Stephen Richardson

APPENDIX 9 (September/19)

Standing Committees (2019-20)

OUTREACH CANADA

2020 Dr. Bill VanDoodewaard
Ken Turner

2021 Rev. John Shearouse
Rev. Michael Jaatinen
Wil Mijnders

2022 Dennis Nenandov
Jon VanDyk
Rev. Tom VanMaanen

2023 Peter Lindsay
Dave Alexander
Rev. Rick Barnes

CONGREGATIONAL LIFE & STEWARDSHIP

2020 Simon Oosterhof
Albert Gerrits
John Moerman

2021 Russell Lutes
Rev. Jonathan Cowan
Rev. Jerry Hamstra

2022 Aaron Koning
Ray Silver
Rev. Brian Murray

2023 Paul Hodgson
Dr. Frank Kovacs

MINISTER & HIS WORK

2020 Rev. Jeff Kingswood

2021 Bryant Flanagan
Rev. Kevin Carter
Rev. Rudy deVries

2022 Alex Beard
Rev. Richard VanderVaart

2023 Henry Hogeterp
John Vander Seen
Rev. Martin Dendekker

CANADIAN PRESBYTERY MISSIONS

2022 Rev. Stephen Richardson
John Rood

2023 Bill McKay
Rev. Robert Widdowson
Henry Van Til
Rev. Henry Bartsch

NOTES:

- 1) Greig Park is in Elder Emeritus status and so not appointed to any committee
- 2) Kurt Kafferlin has been removed from the committees due to his relocation.
- 3) The three elders from Grace Fellowship Church [Lloyd Johnstone, Doug Beane, Norm Hubbert] have not been included due to the church's petition to leave our Presbytery.
- 4) CPM committee was split to begin the process of bringing it to a four-year rotation. It will be further split for 2024 and then be ready in 2025 for two additional elders to be appointed for that year.

CALL OF A PASTOR

We, the officers and members of the Trinity Associate Reformed Presbyterian Church of Chatham, are well satisfied with your ministerial qualifications, and confident that we have been led to you by the Holy Spirit as one whose ministry will be profitable to our Spiritual interest. That 'Spiritual interest', in the case of your affiliation with Trinity ARPC, involves two fronts: further development of Trinity's ministry, and development work for a potential church plant in Windsor (or area). Therefore, we do earnestly call you, Jonathan Troy Cowan, to undertake the office of Associate-Pastor₁ of this congregation. On the acceptance of this call we promise you in the discharge of your duty all proper support, encouragement, and obedience in the Lord. That you may devote yourself wholly to the ministry of the Word, we promise and obligate ourselves to:

- (a) Pay you an annual salary of \$36,000 in at least bi-monthly payments.
- (b) Housing (Check all that apply):
 - (1) _____ Provide you with the free use of a manse with utilities.
 - (2) _____ Provide you with the free use of a manse without utilities.
 - (3) Provide you with a housing allowance of \$12,000 in at least bi-monthly payments.
- (c) Utilities of \$2,000 annually.
- (d) Pay your moving expenses.
- (e) Grant you a travel allowance of \$2,000 annually.
- (f) Grant you a book allowance of \$ 500.00 annually.
- (g) Pay you and your dependents participation in an insurance program equitable to that provided by other churches in the General Synod (Life, dependent life, medical, dental, accidental death and dismemberment, and disability).
- (h) Pay into a Retirement Plan at a percentage equal to the amount set by the General Synod for American A.R.P. churches
- (i) Grant you an annual vacation of 4 weeks.

It is currently envisioned that responsibilities in both areas will be shared with Pastor Bartsch. Furthermore, a clearer description of such responsibilities will be developed in conjunction with yourself, Trinity Session, and possibly the Interview Committee — pending your acceptance of this call.

(j) Grant you an annual study leave of 1 weeks.

(k) Pay all expenses for meeting of Presbytery and Synod

(l) Review with you annually the adequacy of this compensation.

(m) Other.

In testimony whereof we have respectively subscribed our names this 11th day of August, A.D. 2019.

Signatures:

1. Elders

2. Deacons

3. Members

Dave Nante
 Janet Nante
 John Nante
 Harry VanLoover
 Amy VanLoover
 Kenneth Drouillard, jr.
 Jessica Drouillard
 Michelle Drouillard
 Adam Drouillard
 Victoria Karentotte
 Hermon Luinas
 Ryan Drouillard
 Valere Karentotte
 Ian Nante
 Doris Villeneuve
 Marc Villeneuve
 Jesse VanLoover
 Gody Palmer
 Renee Drouillard
 Keith Drouillard
 Maria Luinas
 Gabe

APPENDIX 11 (September/19)

HOPE Presbyterian Church

Report for the Fall 2019 stated meeting of the Canadian Presbytery

September 25, 2019 To the Outreach Canada Committee and the Canadian Presbytery,

It has been a very busy time from April forward, with ministry at HOPE. From April to August there have been 35 one on one meetings with people coming in with our doors open; over 40 visitors to our Sunday services; an Open House & Street Witness event in August, with David Chi helping, where we witnessed directly with over 20 people, and handed out over 100 tracts and brochures. All this with four weeks of vacation, one week away for study break, and looking after grand-children the whole summer – we have been busy. But it has been a blessed time of serving in Kingston. Over this time, I have been very encouraged with how we have moved forward as a mission. We have had to deal with challenging membership and discipline matters; we have seen small growth in numbers; the overall atmosphere of HOPE is positive.

Attendance & membership: our membership roll has decreased to three non-communicant and thirteen communicant members. I am meeting with twelve others concerning their membership. Our morning worship is averaging in the forties, and the evening in the mid-twenties. We are seeing more people check out our church services, and have already seen an increase in students coming.

Outreach & mercy: we continue to open our doors for approximately twenty hours a week and still have people coming in to talk, and/or receive tracts. One Open House was held over the summer, and another is planned for Sept.28. These have been very successful in meeting people. I am considering a mid-week service more and more; the challenge is working it into my schedule. Our mercy efforts have been more focused this year on individuals/households that are known to us.

Worship & Teaching Ministry: I have just completed a short series of sermons on “The Communion of the Saints” in the morning Sunday services. What precipitated this was hoping that this series would really encourage all to know how needed their presence and gifts are to HOPE. Now, in the morning I have begun a series on John 13-17, “The Upper Room Session.” In the evening, I am on sermon #6 in the letter to the Romans. My desire is for the evening service to focus on the gospel itself. We returned to our bi-weekly Tuesday evening bible study on the Westminster Confession of Faith; and a bi-weekly Tuesday evening prayer meeting. Joanne leads the Ladies’ Bible Study and fellowship meetings twice a month. This has attracted a couple new people this September.

We still have two great needs: (1) men who can be elders and deacons; (2) musical accompaniment. We have a couple of young ladies developing their skills, but their abilities are still limited. Michelle Korvemaker continues to be a generous help with our music.

Financial statement: attached is August’s financial statement. Congregational giving is still growing averaging \$4300 a month. A funding letter was sent out to friends, family and churches to encourage their financial aid in HOPE’s ministry. I set a goal of \$50,000 to be raised by the end of the year; we are at the \$12,000 mark.

Personal: our home went from being busy with grandchildren to being filled with boarders. We have two exchange students – one from Australia [who is not a believer], and one from Singapore [whose father is a Reformed Presbyterian minister], staying with us until the end of December. Their fathers contacted me through HOPE’s website, desperately looking for accommodations; plus, a widow who had moved to Kingston from Edmonton, but had no accommodations until she clears Ontario’s health Insurance and get

on the waiting list for assisted living accommodations. It is a relaxed busy for us, and quite enjoyable to give hospitality to these students. We have daily worship and prayers, and with the new boarders it has afforded a rich opportunity for witness, and sanctification.

Relationship with Liz is still cold. She had her baby in August, and we've yet to meet him. The Session is stepping up censures in a gentle firm way to rebuke and call her to repentance. Otherwise my household is getting along well.

Prayer:

1. Do pray for Elizabeth that she would be humbled and repentant and return to the Lord. Pray she becomes more responsive to all of us who are trying to reach out to her.

2. Pray for the specific people: Christine - a widow who is struggling with assurance, and casting off much Roman Catholic doctrine. An inmate who professes faith in Christ but has not been baptized; pray he comes to a greater understanding of the gospel. Anthony & Brayden - two young men who come faithfully every week, but have not professed faith in Christ. Greta, Natalie, & Marc - our boarders who are experiencing Christ's witness in our home, and coming to church as well. Richard & Anna - a newly married couple who have been out a couple times, and are looking for a church home. A few other couples who are struggling with the mainline churches they currently attend.

3. Pray for godly men who can be officers in our church. In our current situation, we are still about three years away from have qualified men. Pray the Lord to bring forth such gifts.

4. Give thanks for the inmates who attend. We were praying for one inmate's Sunday pass to be reinstated; after almost four months it was, and soon his community pass will be as well. We are being a great encouragement to these men.

5. Pray that our Open House & Street Witness plants the seed of the gospel and God's Word in the souls of many. Pray the Spirit blesses these labours with salvation.

6. Pray the Lord strength and encouragement to my soul in all my labours; that I do not lose heart; that I maintain a faithful walk with him and love for my wife, family, and his church.

With grateful thanks to all for your support and confidence,

In Christ

Kevin Carter

	August, 2019	YTD Actual	BUDGET 2019
RECEIPTS			
General Offerings	\$ 4,175.32	\$ 34,868.10	\$ 43,000.00
Outreach Canada CCDT	\$ -	\$ 21,000.00	\$ 42,000.00
Gifts/Support	\$ 388.03	\$ 11,655.91	\$ 40,000.00
Mercy/Missions	\$ 222.99	\$ 2,874.63	\$ 4,300.00
US Exchange/Interest/Other/(Prop Tax Ref)	\$ -	\$ 4,082.62	\$ 4,700.00
TOTAL RECEIPTS	\$ 4,768.34	\$ 70,801.26	\$ 134,000.00
DISBURSEMENTS			
Pastor's Salary Call	\$ 5,501.17	\$ 44,009.36	\$ 66,014.00
Employer CRA Expenses	\$ 280.89	\$ 2,247.12	\$ 3,400.00
Rental Facilities	\$ 3,772.22	\$ 30,177.76	\$ 46,086.00
Stationary/Supplies	\$ -	\$ 386.22	\$ 1,000.00
Missions	\$ -	\$ 2,400.00	\$ 2,150.00
Mercy	\$ -	\$ 2,421.20	\$ 2,150.00
Telephone/Internet	\$ 73.45	\$ 763.20	\$ 1,000.00
Advertising	\$ 88.15	\$ 219.32	\$ 500.00
Christian Education Material	\$ -	\$ 80.37	\$ 1,500.00
Evangelism/Outreacch	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 1,500.00
Presbytery/Synod Travel	\$ -	\$ 719.53	\$ 1,500.00
Pastoral Traiing	\$ -	\$ 863.52	\$ 1,000.00
Equipment/Furniture	\$ 244.07	\$ 913.03	\$ 1,000.00
Utilities	\$ 158.70	\$ 1,842.20	\$ 2,600.00
Miscellaneous (bank fees, penalties, cheques, adjustments, nsf)	\$ -	\$ 251.98	\$ 500.00
Supply Preaching	\$ 400.00	\$ 1,549.10	\$ 1,000.00
Presbytery Expense Fund	\$ -	\$ 500.00	\$ 500.00
Insurance	\$ -	\$ 570.24	\$ 600.00
TOTAL DISBURSEMENTS	\$ 10,517.85	\$ 89,911.75	\$ 134,000.00
Closing Balance	-\$ 5,749.51	-\$ 19,110.49	
Bank Account Balance August 31, 2019		\$ 16,785.54	
Mercy/Missions fund balance August 31, 2019		\$ 3,685.18	

APPENDIX 12 (September/19)

Trinity Presbyterian Mission Report

Deuteronomy 7:9 Know therefore that the LORD your God is God, the faithful God who keeps covenant and steadfast love with those who love him and keep his commandments, to a thousand generations. Our Faithful God keeps His covenant and steadfast love with us His people and we ever look to Him to enable us to return love to Him by His grace and Spirit at work in our hearts. The Church depends on the Lord to continue to uphold us and keep us faithful in the fallen world that is in rebellion against Him.

Since the last meeting of Presbytery on April 4, 2019, the Lord has shown Himself to be a faithful God Who has provided for and continues to uphold the congregation at Trinity Presbyterian Mission (Woodstock, NB). Up until June 20, 2019 the Provisional Session of the church consisted of Rev. Michael Jaatinen (Interim Moderator), Bryant Flanagan, and Kurt Kafferlin. Due to Kurt accepting a new job position, which required moving to Vermont, the Presbytery received a letter of resignation from him for the office of elder of the Provisional Session of Trinity Presbyterian Mission (Woodstock, NB). On June 20, 2019 the Presbytery accepted the resignation of Kurt Kafferlin and released him from the office of elder of the Provisional Session of the church. At the same meeting, the Presbytery accepted and added Elder Russell Lutes (Mount Zion ARP Moncton, NB) to the Provisional Session of Trinity Presbyterian Mission (Woodstock, NB). This Provisional Session continues to have oversight for this Mission Church.

On June 20, 2019, Presbytery commissioned the Provisional Session to: *hold worship services, as they are able to have an elder on site to oversee worship services; and further, to commission the Provisional Session to properly clean up the congregational rolls, evaluate the situation and prepare the congregation for the possibility of closing the Mission by the 2019 Stated Fall Meeting of the Canadian Presbytery.* One worship service every Sunday has continued at Trinity Mission with no disruptions. Rev Michael Jaatinen continues to preach and celebrate the Lord's Supper with the congregation once a month. Since moving to Moncton, Rev Richard Vander Vaart has been able to preach twice a month, and an elder is able to be at a service once or twice a month. On the Sundays that an elder is present in the service, the congregation uses a recorded sermon from Rev. Michael Jaatinen. Mr. John Nyman, who is under care of the Presbytery, was able to fill the pulpit on July 7, 2019. The congregation is very thankful for the efforts of those men who come so that they can continue to have a service on the Lord's Day.

Concerning the mandate to *properly clean up the congregational rolls*, this has been very difficult. The Session minutes, records, and membership roll for Trinity were being held by Kurt Kafferlin. When Rev. Jaatinen requested these documents on several occasions from Kurt, he was unable to provide them to our Provisional Session. Kurt had taken all the records with him when he moved to Vermont. He also experienced a great amount of difficulty with his move, he lived in an empty house and was separated from his family for at least six weeks or more, and he was not in a good state of mind. Kurt was finally able to send a list of the roll on Sept. 16, 2019 and Rev. Jonathan Cowan is going to bring the boxes of hard copy records with him when he travels to Moncton on Sept. 23-24, 2019. Due to these delays in receiving the records and the membership roll of the church, the Provisional Session has not yet properly cleaned up the congregational rolls at Trinity Mission as directed by the Presbytery.

Worship attendance continues to be low but is stable. There are six family units that are regular

in attendance with almost all of these being members of the congregation. Over this past summer there have been some visitors or friends of the congregation that are in occasional attendance (as well as a family that was previously removed from the church that attends sporadically). Average attendance is roughly eight to fifteen. Those that gather continue to enjoy fellowship with one another and share in their common faith. The congregation may have few at this point, but are tightly knit together.

Finances also continue to be stable. The Lord has provided what is needed and the members have been generous in their giving. The church building is fully paid, so expenses are minimal. Without the expense of a minister, the giving and expenses are about the same. The Present bank balance is holding strong at \$34, 907. 75 as of Aug. 29, 2019. There is no present concern of being financially unable to continue as a Mission church.

Both positive things and challenges are expected to continue. But at the present, those who meet for worship desire to continue as a Mission church of the ARP and to worship the living God together. The Lord has been truly faithful to Trinity Mission and we look to Him to continue to grant us wisdom and direction as we contemplate the future.

In Christ,

Rev. Michael Jaatinen (Interim Moderator)

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

2016-17

Moderator: Rev. Jerry Hamstra

Vice-moderator: Peter Lindsay

Stated Clerk: Bill McKay

Treasurer: Gary Armstrong

2018-19

Moderator: Rev. Jeff Kingswood

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

2015-16

Moderator: Rev. Rudy de Vries

Vice-moderator: Albert Gerrits

Stated Clerk: Bill McKay

Treasurer: Gary Armstrong

2017-18

Moderator: John Moerman

Vice-moderator: Rev. Steve Richardson

Stated Clerk: Bill McKay

Treasurer: Gary Armstrong

Vice-moderator: Russell Lutes

Stated Clerk: Bill McKay

Treasurer: Gary Armstrong