

Hi-Lights of 2020 Stated Fall Meeting of the Canadian Presbytery

- The Canadian Presbytery convened as a Court of the Church September 24-25, 2020. Due to the restrictions around the Covid-19 coronavirus, the meeting was conducted in basically 2 locations on Thursday and completely by ZOOM teleconference on Friday.
- Rev. Jonathan Cowan (Trinity ARP Church) moderated the meeting. Twenty-two (22) presbyters were in attendance.
- Mr. Tim Collins preached his “Middler” (second) sermon towards his licensure requirements.
- Mr. John Nymann preached his “Junior” (first) sermon towards his licensure requirements.
- Reports were presented on the Students Under Care – Tim Collins (Gillespie Divinity School/GDS), David Chi (GPTS), Randy Lieuwen (GDS), Jordan VanAmerongen and John Nymann (GDS).
- The presbytery received Mr. Jason Tucker (Grace Presbyterian – Woodstock, ON) as a Student Under Care. Jason is undertaking his studies at Gillespie Divinity School. The presbytery now has 6 Students Under Care.
- Representatives from the West River Road Reformed Church (Cambridge, ON) were present as they have petitioned the presbytery to become part of the Canadian Presbytery fellowship. The presbytery approved the proposal to initiate the process of their group joining our fellowship.
- Rev. Kevin Carter gave an update on the work of Hope ARP Mission in Kingston, ON. Kevin is very thankful for the ongoing support shown to his small congregation from the presbytery. They are encouraged with the growth they are seeing as they continue to endeavour worshipping during the restrictions implemented because of Covid-19.
- A report was given on the Windsor Reformed Fellowship group. They have had 2 worship services to date with very good turnouts from the community with 25 - 35 people in attendance (a number from the Windsor area). They are able to use a Chinese Alliance Church at a very reasonable cost for whatever they need.
- The Erskine ARP Church begun by Covenant Reformed Presbyterian Church in Glenholme, NS (outside of Truro, NS) has been utilized quite well by the Halifax group as they did not have a place to worship during the Covid-19 restrictions so they were able to transition their church services to Glenholme. They have holding 2 services per Lord’s Day at Erskine. They are seeing some interest from the community.
- Prior to the restrictions on gatherings because of Covid-19, Trinity Presbyterian Mission (Woodstock, NB) is continuing with pulpit supply mostly from Rev. Richard Vander Vaart. Attendance numbers are actually increasing and the finances are in good shape. The congregants are united in their desire to see the church remain. The Provisional Session will begin the process of preparing a man to serve as an elder there.
- Reports were presented from Bill and Janet McKay regarding the mission work at Christian Hospital Sahiwal, Pakistan and on the current work of Tom and Sandra Van Maanen on the mission field in Malawi. Tom and Sandra returned home from Malawi on September 24.
- A revised Pastoral Call was extended to Rev. Tom Van Maanen which will change his missionary classification to Bi-vocational pastor/part-time missionary and they will be provided with a stipend based on their part-time status.
- Reports were presented from Rev. Rudy de Vries (Ontario Region) and Rev. Richard Vander Vaart (Maritime Region) on their work as Prison Evangelists with Redemption Prison Ministry.
- The next scheduled meeting of the Canadian Presbytery is the 2021 Stated Spring Meeting scheduled for April 8-9, 2021 with the congregation of Hope ARP Mission (Kingston, ON) scheduled to act as hosts.