

# **THE MINUTES OF THE** **CANADIAN PRESBYTERY**

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

## **Stated Fall Meeting**

September 20-21, 2007

Riverside Associate Reformed Presbyterian Church  
Cambridge, Ontario



Mr. Bill McKay  
Principal/Stated Clerk

Rev. John van Eyk  
Moderator

## **OFFICERS OF THE CANADIAN PRESBYTERY**

### **MODERATOR**

(1 yr. Term expires June 30, 2008)

Rev. John van Eyk  
568 Montrose St. N.  
Cambridge, ON, Canada  
N3H 2P6

### **VICE MODERATOR**

(1 yr. Term expires June 30, 2008)

Rev. Brian Murray  
336 Twin Oaks Dr.  
Moncton, NB, Canada  
E1G 4W7

### **PRINCIPAL CLERK**

(3 yr. Term expires June 30, 2010)

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

### **READING CLERK**

(3 yr. Term expires June 30, 2010)

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

### **TREASURER**

(3 yr. Term expires June 30, 2010)

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

## **CHURCHES OF THE CANADIAN PRESBYTERY**

### **MARITIMES REGION**

Covenant Reformed Presbyterian Church

Covenanters ARP Church

Grace Fellowship Church, ARPC

Mt. Zion ARP Church

Trinity Presbyterian Church

### **ONTARIO REGION**

Grace Presbyterian Church

Reformed Hungarian Church

Riverside ARP Church

Trinity ARP Mission

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**ASSOCIATE REFORMED PRESBYTERIAN CHURCHES IN CANADA,  
ARP GENERAL SYNOD  
STATED FALL MEETING – September 20-21, 2007  
Riverside Associate Reformed Presbyterian Church,  
Cambridge, Ontario**

The 2007 Stated Fall Meeting of the Canadian Presbytery was held on September 20 and 21, 2007 and hosted by Riverside Associate Reformed Presbyterian Church (Cambridge, Ontario). The meetings over the next two (2) days were held at the Zion United Reformed Church in Sheffield, ON. Fifteen (15) presbyters were in attendance for this stated meeting of presbytery.

**Thursday – September 20, 2007**

The delegates for presbytery gathered for a time of Christian fellowship, refreshments and prayer prior to the 2007 Stated Fall Meeting of the Canadian Presbytery. It is by God's grace and under His blessing that we gather as a court of His church. We give praise to God from whom all blessings flow.

**Presbytery Convenes for 2007 Stated Fall Meeting.**

The Moderator of the Canadian Presbytery (2007/08), Rev. John van Eyk, called the presbyters to order at 1:00 p.m. and convened the 2007 Stated Fall Meeting of the Canadian Presbytery. After reading from Scripture (Colossians 3:12-17), Rev. van Eyk constituted the meeting of the Canadian Presbytery as a court of the church of Jesus Christ, with prayer.

**Greetings from the Host Congregation**

On behalf of the congregation of the Riverside Associate Reformed Presbyterian Church, Rev. van Eyk extended warmest greetings and salutations to the presbyters and guests of the Canadian Presbytery.

**Calling of the Roll**

The Reading Clerk, Rev. Jeff Kingswood, called the roll of presbyters for this stated meeting. The following brothers were in attendance.

a) **Roll Call of ministers present:**

Rick Barnes  
Henry Bartsch  
William Campbell  
Kevin Carter  
David Els  
Jeff Kingswood  
Frank Kovacs  
Brian Murray  
John Shearouse  
John van Eyk

b) **Roll Call of Licentiates and Students of Theology present:**

Bill Van Doodewaard (Student of Theology)  
Rudy de Vries (Licentiate)

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

Gary Plewes (Mt. Zion ARPC)  
Mike Flewelling (Trinity Presbyterian, NB)  
Greig Park (Riverside ARPC)  
John Moerman (Trinity ARPMC – Chatham, ON)  
Kevin Bigney (Covenant Reformed Presbyterian Church)

Dr. Jack C. Whytock, Alan Jones, Bill McKay sent their regrets for their absence from this meeting and were excused. Mr. Albert Gerrits (Covenanters) extended his last minute regrets due to a change in his work situation.

The clerk declared a quorum was present.

**Introduction of Guests and Visitors.**

A warm welcome was extended by the moderator to the guests and visitors who were in attendance.

Kerem Koc - Riverside  
Jennifer Hovestadt – Women's Ministry  
Fariborz Khandani

**Motion of participation in these meetings.**

- **Motion:** (from Outreach Canada) that the right of full participation be extended to the elder from the Trinity ARP Mission congregation. **M/S/C**

**Report of the Moderator (Rev. John van Eyk):**

1. Presentation and Approval of the Docket. Rev. van Eyk presented the proposed docket.
  - **Motion:** to adopt the docket as presented. **M/S/C**
2. Appointment of the Moderator's Committees:
  - a) Rev. van Eyk appointed the following men to serve on the Resolutions and Excuses Committee: Rev. Rick Barnes and Gary Plewes
3. Report from the Special Committee on Mt. Zion. (See Appendix 1)

Rev. John Shearouse presented the report and answered questions.  
Mr. Gary Plewes gave an update with regard to the situation.  
Rev. Brian Murray also addressed some questions that arose from the report.

  - **Motion:** To receive the report as information. **M/S/C**
4. Presbytery Schedule Change.

Rev. van Eyk made a recommendation to change the start times for future Stated Presbytery meetings from 1:00 p.m. to 10:00 a.m. of the Thursday meetings. The purpose is to implement a new aspect of the meetings where a different minister, at every Stated Meeting, will be asked to present a paper on some type of doctrinal position for discussion within the presbytery and also to allow for more fellowship between the presbyters at Stated Meetings. This would also allow for less work that needs to be done on Friday mornings.

- **Motion:** To change the start times for future Stated Presbytery meetings from 1:00 p.m. to 10:00 a.m. of the Thursday meetings. **M/S/C**
- **Motion:** That we institute the practice of the exercise (as defined in the preamble to this motion) as a regular part of the gathering of Presbytery. **M/S/C**
- **Motion:** To receive the report. **M/S/C**

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

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

- **Motion:** To approve the Minutes of Presbytery for the April 26-27 (Spring Stated Meeting), June 6 and July 12, 2007 (Called Meetings). **M/S/C**
  - a) From the April 26-27 Meeting Minutes under Minister & His Work Report (Item #4 – Licentiate Rudy de Vries) the following motion needs to be rescinded as it is out of order and unnecessary according to the ARP Form of Government X.H.:  
**Motion:** *That Rudy de Vries be permitted to labour “out of bounds” to serve in prison ministry with Cornerstone Bible Institute.* **M/S/C**
    - **Motion:** To rescind the motion from the April 26-27, 2007 Stated Spring Meeting Minutes (*That Rudy de Vries be permitted to labour “out of bounds” to serve in prison ministry with Cornerstone Bible Institute*). **M/S/C**
    - **Motion:** To present a revised Pastoral Call to Rudy de Vries with the amendment to the terms to place him under the care and the responsibility of the Outreach Canada Committee **(See Appendix 2).** **M/S/C**

##### **2. Report of Correspondence Received.**

- a) **Resignation of Ruling Elder Jim Haas (Grace Presbyterian Church)**  
 Rev. Jeff Kingswood reported that Mr. Jim Haas has resigned as a Ruling Elder of Grace Presbyterian Church and that he and his family have left the congregation.

##### **3. Second Reading of Amendments to the Canadian Presbytery Manual of Procedure.** The Amendment to the Canadian Presbytery Manual of Procedure was published and presented to the presbytery for Second Reading. **(See Appendix 3)**

- **Motion:** To accept the presentation of the Amendments to the Canadian Presbytery Manual of Procedure as the Second Reading (as presented). **M/S/C**

##### **4. First Reading of the Overture to the Presbyteries regarding the Proposed Amendment to the Constitution of the Associate Reformed Presbyterian Church.** The Overture for the proposed amendment to the Constitution of the Associate Reformed Presbyterian Church was published and presented to the presbytery for First Reading. ***“Shall the Standards of the Associate Reformed Presbyterian Church be amended by replacing The Book of Worship with The Directory of Public Worship for the Associate Reformed Presbyterian Church?”***

- **Motion:** To accept the presentation of the Overture for the proposed amendment to the Constitution of the Associate Reformed Presbyterian Church as the First Reading (as presented). **M/S/C**

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

#### **Nominations Committee. (Rudy de Vries)**

1. Approval of Jennifer Hovestadt as the Canadian Presbytery delegate to the Associate Reformed Presbyterian Church Women's Ministry for 2008 – 2010.
    - **Motion:** To approve Jennifer Hovestadt to serve as the Canadian Presbytery's ARP Women's Ministry delegate and to serve as the liaison to coordinate/oversee women's events for the Canadian churches. **M/S/C**
  2. Placement of Associate Reformed Presbyterian Church Women's Ministry representative under the care of the Congregational Life Committee.
    - **Motion:** To place the ARP Church Women's Ministry delegate under the care and oversight of the Congregational Life Committee. **M/S/C**
  3. Revised Standing Committee List (2007/08): The committee presents a revised Standing Committee List for 2007/08 as Mr. Jon Davis and Mr. Jim Haas are no longer serving as Ruling Elders in the Canadian Presbytery (**See Appendix 4**). Received for information.
- **Motion:** To adopt the report as a whole. **M/S/C**

#### **Guest Speaker - Rev. Martin Taylor**

Rev. Martin Taylor is a representative of the Stewardship Committee of the Associate Reformed Presbyterian General Synod and has requested an opportunity to address the members of the court of the Canadian Presbytery.

- **Motion:** To grant "Privilege of the Floor" to Rev. Taylor. **M/S/C**

It was agreed that the Stewardship Committee Report be dealt with at this time in order to enable the participation of Mr. Taylor.

#### **STEWARDSHIP COMMITTEE (Rev. David Els)**

1. Treasurer's Report.
  - a) Rev. Els reviewed the Treasurer's Report for the Canadian Presbytery ending August 30, 2007. (**See Appendix 5**)
2. Travel Expenses.
  - **Motion:** That the Presbytery Treasurer will reimburse travel expenses upon receiving a copy of the receipt. **M/S/C**

The Stewardship Committee requests that in order to be reimbursed, you need to do one of the following:

- Post the Presbytery Treasurer a receipt and notify the Stewardship Chairman.
- Scan the receipt and e-mail it to the Treasurer and the Stewardship Chairman.
- When requesting a reimbursement for mileage, please state the distance traveled as well as the place of origination and destination.

Denominational Ministries Fund – There is an agreement being set up with Revenue Canada that will enable the transfer of money from the incorporated Canadian Presbytery to the Denominational Ministry Fund at the Synod level.

- **Motion:** To receive the 2007 Treasurer's Report as presented. **M/S/C**

### **OUTREACH CANADA (Rev. John van Eyk)**

1. **Report from Trinity ARP Mission Congregation.** Rev. van Eyk invited Rev. Bartsch to bring the report from Trinity ARP (Chatham).
  - a) Rev. Henry Bartsch presented the report from Trinity Associate Reformed Presbyterian Church of Chatham, ON. – **(See Appendix 6)**
  - b) Rev. Kevin Carter reported on some difficult pastoral situations in the congregation of Covenanters.
  - c) Rev. Rick Barnes also shared with the presbyters that there is some unrest among founding families within the Sydney Mines congregation.

### **Board of Directors (Rev. Kevin Carter).**

- No report.

Rev. van Eyk declared a recess for this session of presbytery to give the various Standing Committees an opportunity to meet and form their reports for presentation to the Presbytery during Friday's meeting.

### **Ordination Service**

The presbyters and friends of the Canadian Presbytery gathered together again at 7:30 p.m. in the sanctuary of the Zion United Reformed Church, for a time of worship and for the ordination of Rudy de Vries as a Minister of the Word and Sacrament and his commissioning as an outreach evangelist to work with Cornerstone Bible Institute in the Canadian Penitentiary System. Rev. Jeff Kingswood presided over the service and Rev. John van Eyk brought God's Word to the congregation. A time of fellowship followed the worship service. **(See Appendix 7)**

### **Friday, September 21, 2007**

At 8:10 a.m., the presbytery gathered in the sanctuary for a worship service. Rev. Rudy de Vries presided over the proceedings and led the presbytery in prayer and in the singing of a hymn. The presbytery had the opportunity to celebrate the sacrament of the Lord's Supper. Mr. Bill van Doodewaard brought the Word of God to the congregation as he preached from Psalm 19. Rev. de Vries then led the presbytery in prayer.

### **Presbytery Re-Convenes**

At 9:20 a.m., following the worship service, Rev. van Eyk called the presbytery to order and re-convened the 2007 Stated Fall Meeting of the Canadian Presbytery with prayer.

### **Calling of the Roll by the Stated Clerk**

Elder Bill McKay was present today as the delegate for Grace Presbyterian Church. The clerk declared a quorum was present.

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

Mr. Kerem Koc, Jennifer Hovestadt and Rev. Fariborz Khandani were present for the meetings.

### **Introduction of Fraternal Delegates**

There were no Fraternal Delegates present.

### **Announcements**

1. The Stated Clerk reminded the presbyters to ensure they have signed the attendance sheets and also requested that all name tags be returned to him at the close of today's session.

### **MINISTER AND HIS WORK COMMITTEE (Rev. John Shearouse)**

#### **1. Review of Bill Van Doodewaard's Sermon.**

There was discussion surrounding Bill Van Doodewaard's sermon on Psalm 19.

- **Motion:** To have a discussion and review regarding Bill Van Doodewaard's sermon. **M/S/C**
- **Motion:** To allow Rev. Fariborz Khandani "Privilege of the Floor". **M/S/C**
- **Motion:** To receive this sermon as the second of three sermons that Bill Van Doodewaard needs to present to the presbytery. **M/S/C**

#### **2. Review of Annual Statistical Forms.**

The committee reported that there were some minor points noted that needed to be investigated but the reports seemed to be in overall good shape. The committee checked for an Annual Review of the Pastoral Call in every church as directed by the FoG. They reported that this was done. There was some discussion on the discrepancy between the retirement benefits as supplied by the Associate Reformed Presbyterian Church versus private retirement benefits as done in Canada.

- **Motion:** That the Administrative Services of Synod include a line item in the Annual Statistical Forms asking the Canadian churches to indicate if they are making an equivalent contribution to the requirement for U.S. churches to the Associate Reformed Presbyterian Church retirement plan. **M/S/C**
- It was noted that the Minister and His Work Committee should inform the Canadian congregations at the year end as to what is the equivalence to the American plan. The committee will do some further investigation into the differences between the plans.

#### **3. Theology Examination of Rev. Fariborz Khandani.**

The M&HW Committee noted that the following requirements for an orderly transfer have been met:

- Transcripts for education requirement approved (April 07)
- Written statement of beliefs and Christian Testimony received and approved (April 07)
- A notification of release from the PCA (May 18, 07)
- The call from World Witness received and approved (June 6, 07)
- Examination sustained in English Bible, History, and Polity (approved July 12, 07)
- Remaining Requirement: Theology examination on floor of Presbytery scheduled for Sept 21 (today). Rev. Kingswood has been asked to prepare questions.

Rev. Khandani was examined in the area of Theology under the auspices of the M&HW Committee.

- **Motion:** To arrest the examination of Rev. Fariborz Khandani. **M/S/C**

Rev. Khandani was excused from the meeting while the presbytery discussed his

examination.

- **Motion:** To sustain the Theology Examination of Rev. Fariborz Khandani. **M/S/C**

Minister and His Work reported that they have received all of the documents necessary for his transfer to the Canadian Presbytery and that World Witness has approved the Pastoral Call as presented at the June 6, 2007 Called Meeting of the Canadian Presbytery.

- **Motion:** To accept and receive the transfer of Rev. Fariborz Khandani as a Minister of the Word and Sacrament from the Metro Atlanta Presbytery of the Presbyterian Church in America into the Canadian Presbytery of the Associate Reformed Presbyterian Churches in Canada. **M/S/C**

Rev. van Eyk asked Rev. Khandani the questions as put forward in the Form of Government and offered prayer for Rev. Khandani for his ministry to the Persian Christian community. Rev. Khandani was presented with the Pastoral Call as extended by World Witness, which he accepted.

### **ORDER OF THE DAY**

The presbytery observed the Order of the Day at this time.

### **WELCOME**

Rev. van Eyk extended a welcome to Rev. Christo Heiberg at this time. Rev. Heiberg is the pastor of Zion United Reformed Church.

Rev. Fariborz Khandani put forward a request to the Canadian Presbytery asking permission to labour “Out of Bounds”.

- **Motion:** To grant permission to Rev. Fariborz Khandani to allow him to labour “Out of Bounds” with the Canadian Presbytery. **M/S/**
- **Motion:** To adopt the report as a whole. **M/S/C**

### **CONGREGATIONAL LIFE COMMITTEE (Rev. Jeff Kingswood)**

1. **Minutes to be received and approved.** The 2006 Session Minutes from Grace Fellowship Church ARPC, Trinity Presbyterian Church, Mt. Zion ARP Church, Covenanters ARP Church and the Covenant Reformed Presbyterian Church were received and examined according to the Form of Government.
  - **Motion:** to receive and approve the minutes from Grace Fellowship Church ARPC, Trinity Presbyterian Church, Mt. Zion ARP Church, Covenanters ARP Church and the Covenant Reformed Presbyterian Church. **M/S/C**
2. **Report on the Memorial re. Congregational Accountability.** No report
3. **Canadian Associates.** The committee is presenting a proposal to retire the Canadian Associates Magazine and to develop a website. This could be accomplished with a minimum of cost and could be more far reaching as to accessibility. As the chair of the Congregational Life Committee, Rev. Kingswood would oversee the website at this time.

- **Motion:** That the Congregational Life Committee be authorized to spend up to \$250.00 to establish and develop a website for the Canadian Presbytery. **M/S/C**
- 4. **Women's Retreat.** Jennifer Hovestadt has approached the committee with a proposal to organize a Women's Retreat in Ontario in 2008. The location would be Chatham, ON (hosted by the Trinity ARP Mission). A final date is to be determined.
- **Motion:** To adopt the report as a whole. **M/S/C**

## **OLD BUSINESS**

### **Outreach Canada (Rev. John van Eyk)**

1. The Outreach Canada Committee of the Canadian Presbytery has put together a list of questions as a guideline to use in overseeing the work of Rev. Rudy de Vries, Presbytery's Prison Chaplain working with Cornerstone Bible Institute. Rudy will probably not be actively engaged in chaplaincy to the level he intends until February 2008. The Committee recommended that since Rudy is ministering as a minister of the Presbytery the Churches should consider increasing their support for Cornerstone Bible Institute which will be supplying the financial terms of Rudy's call.
2. The committee gave counsel to Rev. Bartsch and John Moerman regarding adult education in their congregation.
3. The annual Elders and Ministers' Retreat for Ontario is scheduled to take place on the weekend of January 18 - 19, 2008 at the Creif Hills Retreat Center outside of Cambridge, ON. Henry Bartsch will be arranging the topics for discussion.
4. A report was given on the Maritime Region Meeting of the Presbyters highlighting some of the items from their report which will be included in the minutes. (**See Appendix 8**)
5. John Shearouse has had discussions with a Mr. David Dowber in Newfoundland regarding establishing an Associate Reformed Presbyterian Church presence in St. John's, Nfld. It has been difficult to arrange a time for all parties to meet. Mr. Dowber will be in Cambridge, ON over the Christmas holidays and will have an opportunity to meet with Rev. van Eyk at that time.
6. There is a request for a special offering to be held some time round Reformation Day for the Canadian Church Development Fund.
  - **Motion:** To forward the request to hold a special offering some time around Reformation Day for the Canadian Church Development Fund. **M/S/C**
- **Motion:** To adopt the report as a whole. **M/S/C**

## **GREETINGS**

Rev. Christo Heiberg was granted time to bring greetings to the Canadian Presbytery on behalf of the Zion United Reformed Church. He expressed thanks for the invitation to attend the ordination service for Rudy DeVries and also the sessions of our presbytery meetings. He requested prayer for the URC that they would remain faithful servants of His kingdom.

Rev. Brian Murray offered prayer for the United Reformed Church as a sister denomination and their proposed future work in Prince Edward Island.

### **Stewardship**

Rev. Els noted that an “e-form” for travel expenses and other expenses will be developed and made available to the members of the presbytery.

### **NEW BUSINESS**

There was no “New Business” to report.

### **REPORTS OF MODERATOR COMMITTEE(S)**

#### **1. Excuses and Absences.**

- **Motion:** That the excuses for Ruling Elder Bill McKay (for Thursday), Dr. Jack Whytock, Ruling Elders Albert Gerrits and Alan Jones (for the entire 2008 Fall Meeting) and Rev. Frank Kovacs (for Friday) be accepted and approved. **M/S/C**

#### **2. Resolutions.** The following motion from the Excuses and Resolutions Committee was presented by Rev. Rick Barnes.

- **Motion:**  
**Be it resolved that the Canadian Presbytery of the Associate Reformed Presbyterian Church, offers sincere gratitude to Zion United Reformed Church (Sheffield, ON) for the use of their facilities, and also to Riverside Associate Reformed Presbyterian Church for their hospitality and meals in hosting the 2007 Stated Fall Meeting of presbytery; and further that this thanksgiving be published in the minutes of presbytery. M/S/C**

(A letter of thanks will be sent to Zion URC and a note will be placed in the bulletin of Riverside Associate Reformed Presbyterian Church.)

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

**January 19/08:** Teleconference Meeting

**April 24-25/08:** Grace Presbyterian Church, Woodstock, ON (10:00 a.m.)

**September 25-26, 2008:** Covenant Reformed Presbyterian Church, Halifax. NS

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

The court participated in a “season of prayer” which was closed by Rev. van Eyk and the presentation of the benediction. The court adjourned at 11:55 a.m. with the singing of Psalm 133.

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

Respectfully submitted and attested by:

Mr. Bill McKay  
Principal Clerk

Rev. John van Eyk  
Moderator

## **APPENDIX 1 (September/07)**

### **Mount Zion Committee Report September 20, 2007**

At our January 2007 teleconference meeting, a special committee was appointed by Presbytery at the request of the session at Mt. Zion. The Committee was asked to investigate division in the congregation and make recommendations.

On February 19, the Committee met with the Session and concerned members. The Committee identified several factors that it believed were contributing to and exacerbating the division on the part of all parties involved. These observations were reported to the Presbytery on Feb 20, and two general recommendations were approved along with a recommendation that the Committee would do certain follow-up work. The Committee then met with the session and concerned members again that very same evening and presented these findings and recommendations. The Committee was pleased to find that all parties present affirmed a desire to work toward the unity that is eulogized in Psalm 133. However, some of the disaffected members that were invited did not attend the meeting and subsequently made the decision to withdraw their membership.

On March 3-4, 2007, a Subcommittee of two went to Mt. Zion to meet individually with members of the congregation and with the session to assess progress and give counsel. The Subcommittee also met with the entire congregation to present the recommendation and admonish them to pursue peace. On this visit, the Subcommittee found that the session needed more direction in implementing the recommendations and reported this to the Committee on March 12. The Committee then submitted more detailed counsel to the session and asked them to draw up an action plan based on that counsel for presentment to us and then to Presbytery at the meeting of Presbytery on April 26. This was done and the matter was left in the hands of the session to implement their plan with the understanding that the Committee would return to assess the progress that was being made before the September Presbytery.

On September 3, a Subcommittee of three visited Mt. Zion for this purpose. The Subcommittee met with the Session first, then with the Session and one household, then with the Session and another household, and then again with the Session alone. The Subcommittee found that there was still a lack of communication between the parties and that divisions had been allowed to fester and deepen. The counsel was that “vigorous pastoral attention” be given to the disaffected members. The Subcommittee urged both sides to put aside petty differences and work toward peace, and also endeavoured to provide counsel to the Session about a matter that had hindered the provision of pastoral counsel to the two member families.

On September 10, the Subcommittee reported on this visit to the Committee. Upon hearing the report, the Committee concluded that little would be served in sending another subcommittee at this time. Instead, members of the Committee were individually assigned persons at Mt. Zion to contact in order to provide them with counsel, accountability, and encouragement to do their part in promoting the peace, purity, and prosperity of the congregation at Mt. Zion. Unless diligent, unrelenting effort is given, we see little hope of a resolution.

The Committee recommends to Presbytery that fervent prayer be offered to our heavenly Father for the peace of Zion.

Respectfully Submitted,

John R. Shearouse  
Chairman, Mt. Zion Committee

## **APPENDIX 2 (September/07)**

### **Call of Mr. Roelof de Vries to the Outreach Ministry of Prison Chaplain**

We, the officers and members of the Canadian Presbytery of the Associate Reformed Presbyterian Church, being 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 the Church of Jesus Christ, do earnestly call you, Roelof de Vries, to undertake the office of Minister of Word and Sacrament to serve as a Prison Chaplain with Cornerstone Bible Institute. On the acceptance of this call we promise you in the discharge of your duty all proper support and encouragement for the discharge of your ministry.

We issue this call with the understanding that Cornerstone Bible Institute has, in consultation with you, established in writing the following level of support for you upon your acceptance of this call:

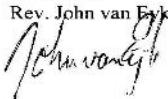
- (a) Pay you an annual salary of \$31,650.00 in at least monthly payments.
- (b) Provide you with a housing allowance of \$16,266.00 in at least monthly payments.
- (c) Utilities of \$3,252.00 annually.
- (d) Pay automobile expenses at the level of .44 per km for all prison related ministries.
- (e) Grant you a book allowance of \$1,000.00 annually.
- (f) Grant you an allowance of \$800.00 annually for further training/seminars.
- (h) Pay for your 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). This sum will be \$3,252.00.
- (i) Pay into a Retirement Plan at a percentage equal to the amount set by the General Synod for American A.R.P. churches. In 2007 this amount will be \$4,571.00.
- (j) Grant you an annual vacation of 3 weeks.
- (k) Grant you an annual study leave of 1 week.
- (l) Review with you annually the adequacy of this compensation.

**Total package: \$60,791.00**

In addition to this support from Cornerstone Bible Institute, we, of the Canadian Presbytery, agree to pay your travel expenses up to \$1,200/yr for the meetings of the Canadian Presbytery and the ARP Synod.

In an effort to help us maintain proper oversight of your ministry we have placed you under the supervision of the Outreach Canada Committee of the Canadian Presbytery.

Approved by the Canadian Presbytery on this 20th day of September A.D. 2007.

Moderator  
Rev. John van Eek  


Stated Clerk  
Bill McKay  


### **APPENDIX 3 (September/07)**

#### **Second Reading of the Amendment to the Canadian Presbytery MoP:**

1. **Motion:** To add the following phrase to the Canadian Presbytery Manual of Procedure as Chapter VII, Part C, Art. 3(k): *“Prior to the Presbytery meeting when a mission Church hopes to petition Presbytery for organization, the Provisional Session shall request Presbytery to establish an Assessment Committee of 2 ministers and 2 ruling elders within the region which would give recommendations to the Provisional Session with regards to the advisability of proceeding toward organization.”*
2. **Motion:** To change the following articles in the Canadian Presbytery MoP to be brought into line with the General By-laws of the corporation of the Associate Reformed Presbyterian Churches in Canada:

#### **PART G: (TRUSTEES) BOARD OF DIRECTORS**

##### **Article 1**

##### **Membership:**

- a) ~~This~~ The Board of Directors shall ~~(have at least four (4))~~ be composed of not fewer than five (5) members chosen from the Presbytery-at-large. ~~In view of social interests and abilities~~
- b) Members of the ~~committee~~ Board of Directors shall be elected at the ~~(Stated) Fall~~ Stated Spring Meeting to serve a six year term beginning ~~January~~ July 1 of the ~~next~~ ~~calendar~~ that year.
- c) Members of the Board of Directors shall not be eligible for re-election to the committee until one (1) year has elapsed after the close of their term of service.
- d) The Board of Directors shall exercise such powers as authorized by the Presbytery.
- e) Any Board member may be removed by a majority vote of the Presbytery.
- f) Board members shall receive no remuneration for serving as such, but are entitled to reasonable expenses incurred in the exercise of their duty.

##### **Article 3**

##### **Meetings**

- a) Meetings of the Board of Directors shall be held at any time and place to be determined by the members of such committee provided that forty-eight (48) hours written notice of such meeting shall be given, other than by mail, to each member of the committee. Notice by mail shall be sent at least 14 days prior to the meeting.
- b) A majority of directors in office, from time to time, but no less than two directors, shall constitute a quorum for meetings of the board of directors. Any meeting of the board of directors at which a quorum is present shall be competent to exercise all or any of the authorities, powers and discretions by or under the bylaws of the corporation.

**APPENDIX 4 (September/07)**

**STANDING COMMITTEES**  
**OF THE**  
**CANADIAN PRESBYTERY (2007/08) – Revised September 2007**  
(Terms begin July 1/07 through to June 30/08)

**Outreach Canada:**

Rev. John van Eyk (2008) – **CHAIR**  
Mr. Frank Masters (2008)  
Mr. Frank Kovacs Sr. (2009)  
Mr. Troy McNulty (2009)  
Mr. Henry Van Til (2010)  
Mr. Greig Park (2010)  
Mr. Reg Lindsay (2011)  
Rev. Brian Murray (2011)

**Congregational Life:**

Rev. Jeff Kingswood (2008)–**CHAIR**  
Mr. John Moerman (2008)  
Mr. Tibor Lacko (2009)  
Mr. Winston MacEachern (2009)  
Mr. Ken Turner (2010)  
Mr. Henry Hogeterp (2010)  
Dr. Jack C. Whytock (2011)  
Mr. Dave Alexander (2011)

**Minister and His Work:**

Rev. John Shearouse (2008) – **CHAIR**  
Mr. Gary Plewes (2008)  
Mr. Jon Van Dyk (2009)  
Rev. Rick Barnes (2010)  
Rev. Frank Kovacs (2010)  
Mr. John Rood (2011)

**Nominations:**

Mr. Bill McKay (2008) – **CHAIR**  
Rev. Rudy deVries (2008)  
Mr. Albert Gerrits (2009)  
Mr. Dave MacKenna (2010)  
Rev. Henry Bartsch (2011)

**Stewardship:**

Rev. David Els (2008) – **CHAIR**  
Rev. Kevin Carter (2008)  
Mr. Mike Flewelling (2009)  
Mr. Simon Oosterhof (2010)  
Mr. Kevin Bigney (2011)

**Trustees (Board of Directors):**

Rev. Kevin Carter (2013) – **CHAIR**  
Mr. John Rood (2010)  
Mr. Alan Jones (2011)  
Rev. Jeff Kingswood (2012)  
Rev. Frank Kovacs (2014)

**APPENDIX 5 (September/07)**

<b>Associate Reformed Presbyterian Churches in Canada</b>								
<b>Treasurer's Report</b>								
<b>for the year ending December 31, 2006</b>								
	<b>Expense Fund</b>		<b>Denominational Ministry Fund</b>		<b>Canadian Church Development Trust</b>		<b>Total All Funds 2007</b>	<b>Total All Funds 2006</b>
<b>RECEIPTS</b>	<b>Actual</b>	<b>Pledges</b>	<b>Actual</b>	<b>Pledges</b>	<b>Actual</b>	<b>Pledges</b>		
Covenant Reformed	\$ -	\$ 400.00	\$ -	\$ 100.00	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 3,570.00
Covenanters	-	200.00	-	100.00	-	400.00	-	700.00
Grace Fellowship, NS	600.00	1,200.00	500.00	1,000.00	500.00	1,000.00	1,600.00	2,400.00
Grace Presbyterian, ON	-	1,800.00	-	200.00	-	2,500.00	-	4,915.94
Mount Zion	300.00	1,000.00	100.00	400.00	750.00	3,000.00	1,150.00	6,555.80
Reformed Hungarian	-	200.00	-	50.00	-	500.00	-	750.00
Riverside	500.00	2,000.00	300.00	300.00	4,495.62	10,000.00	5,295.62	9,300.00
Trinity Chatham, ON	1,400.00	2,800.00	150.00	300.00	3,800.00	7,600.00	5,350.00	10,600.00
Trinity Woodsbck, NB	500.00	1,000.00	100.00	200.00	575.00	1,000.00	1,175.00	1,650.00
GST received							-	326.25
Interest		-		-		-	-	1,862.06
<b>TOTAL RECEIPTS</b>	<b>3,300.00</b>	<b>10,600.00</b>	<b>1,150.00</b>	<b>2,650.00</b>	<b>10,120.62</b>	<b>26,000.00</b>	<b>14,570.62</b>	<b>42,630.05</b>
<b>DISBURSEMENTS</b>	<b>Budget</b>				<b>Budget</b>			
Supplement paid to Covenanters					12,000.00	12,000.00	12,000.00	17,000.00
Canadian Associates Newsletter		1,600.00					-	671.12
Travel and Advertising	893.75	2,000.00					893.75	1,187.18
Moderator/Clerk Travel		1,500.00					-	-
Telephone, teleconference calls	108.27	1,500.00					108.27	515.77
Printing Minutes, Manual of Procedure		100.00					-	-
Treasurer's Work, Page, Bank Chgs, Office		1,500.00					-	202.79
Student Bursaries & Expenses		4,800.00					-	2,000.00
Computer (2003 expense)		-					-	-
Incorporation	2,688.77	3,000.00					2,688.77	-
GST Spend	216.33						216.33	
Contingency		400.00	-	-	-	-	-	73.17
<b>TOTAL DISBURSEMENTS</b>	<b>3,907.12</b>	<b>16,400.00</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>12,000.00</b>	<b>12,000.00</b>	<b>15,907.12</b>	<b>21,650.03</b>
<b>Excess - Receipts over Disbursements</b>	<b>(607.12)</b>	<b>\$(5,800.00)</b>	<b>1,150.00</b>	<b>\$2,650.00</b>	<b>(1,879.38)</b>	<b>\$14,000.00</b>	<b>(1,336.50)</b>	<b>20,980.02</b>
Bank and Investments - January 1	\$21,550.74		\$17,921.16		\$86,831.10		126,303.00	105,322.98
Bank and Investments - December 31	\$20,943.62		\$19,071.16		\$84,951.72		\$124,966.50	\$126,303.00
<b>Represented by:</b>								
Bank Balance							\$ 5,880.04	\$ 7,216.54
Investment Certificates							119,086.46	119,086.46
<b>Total Funds- December 31</b>							<b>\$124,966.50</b>	<b>\$126,303.00</b>

APPENDIX 6 (September/07)

## *Trinity Associate Reformed Presbyterian Church*

*Pastor: Rev. Henry G. Bartsch*

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



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Sept 20, 2007

To the Fathers and Brothers of the Canadian Presbytery

Subject: Report from Trinity ARP Mission, Chatham, Ontario

Greetings in the name of Jesus! With thankfulness to God for his faithfulness I submit this report to you.

**Attendance:** Since spring, our morning attendance has remained constant at an average of 80. However, our evening service has dropped somewhat. The average attendance over the past 5 months has been 62.

**Offerings:** Our average giving per Sunday is still the same. The average offering to date is \$1550 vs. the \$1850 per week budgeted. This represents a potential 16% shortfall relative to the 2007 budget. This is below budget by about \$ 420.00 per week.

**Missions:** To date, we have been able to fulfill our 2007 mission commitments. For 2008, we anticipate refocusing some of our commitments as we seek to support work in Haiti through *Mission to Haiti* ([www.mthcanada.org](http://www.mthcanada.org)).

**Ministries:** Besides the regular preaching ministry on the Lord's Day, this fall we will be continuing our Youth Fellowship meetings, the Ladies' Bible Study, and initiating men's breakfast meetings. This year the ladies will study a book by Sharon Betters: *Treasures of Encouragement: Women Helping Women in the Church*. This fall, Lord willing, we are beginning a Men's Breakfast. We will be asking special speakers to come and address certain topics to help our men live out the Christian life. Our first meeting is October 6<sup>th</sup> with Hank Van Doren.

**Preaching:** Morning worship: In June I finished a year long series in which I gave an overview of the Bible's story. I am currently preaching on various Psalms, but anticipate preaching through *1 Samuel* beginning in October. Evening worship: I am currently preaching through *Acts*. Sunday Education Class: We have been doing Christian biographies and Presbyterian Church history during this teaching time held after Morning Worship and fellowship. Starting in October we will do a study through the Westminster Confession of Faith.

**Challenges:** There are ongoing challenges reminding us that the church is an institution at war:

- One marriage appears to be unsalvageable.
- One couple requiring serious parenting assistance.
- Declining attendance at our Wednesday evening prayer meeting.
- Some prospective visitors have decided not to stay.

**Blessings:** Blessings have come our way too:

- One young lady has made public profession of her faith.
- The Lord has opened doors of opportunity at the Chatham jail. In fact, this past Sunday one of the men being ministered to (currently released to be sent to a detox center) has attended worship with us.
- The regular communion of the saints is a *positive* too. Our people enjoy interactive fellowship on the Lord's Day which is always an encouragement to me.

**On a personal note:** Our family has relocated since our last meeting. Our residence is now at 53 Water Street, Chatham. It's a great place with increased yard space for the kids. Tammy has begun the daily challenges of the school year again. The children are healthy and energetic. Our family desires your continued prayers on our behalf. Pray especially that the pressures of ministry would not overshadow my personal ministry to my own family.

Again thank you so much for your participation and your oversight of this work. Pray for the Lord's blessing on our ministries, but particularly on the preaching, the sacraments, the Wednesday prayer meetings, and our fellowship.

For Jesus' Kingdom,  
Rev. Henry Bartsch,  
(Mission Developer)

**APPENDIX 7 (September/07)**



The Ordination Service of  
Mr. Roelof de Vries  
to the Gospel Ministry  
and  
Commissioning as  
Prison Evangelist

September 20, 2007

by the Canadian Presbytery  
of the Associate Reformed Presbyterian Church

## The Order of Worship

### Welcome and Announcements

Rev. Jeff Kingswood

### \*Call to Worship

Psalm 98:1-4

### \*Prayer of Adoration and Invocation

### \*Hymn of Adoration— The Ends of All the Earth Shall Hear (#36)

**Psalm 22:27** --"All the ends of the earth shall remember and turn to the LORD,  
and all the families of the nations shall worship before you."

The ends of all the earth shall hear  
And turn unto the Lord in fear;  
All kindreds of the earth shall own,  
And worship Him as God alone.

Refrain:           All earth to Him her homage brings,  
The Lord of lords, the King of kings.

For His the kingdom, His of right,  
He rules the nations by His might;  
All earth to Him her homage brings,  
The Lord of lords, the King of kings.

Both rich and poor, both bond and free,  
Shall worship Him on bended knee,  
And children's children shall proclaim,  
The glorious honour of His name.

The Lord's unfailing righteousness,  
All generations shall confess,  
From age to age shall men be taught,  
What wondrous works the Lord has wrought.

### Affirmation of Faith — Nicene Creed

Minister: Christians, what do we believe?

All: We believe in one God, the Father Almighty,  
Maker of heaven and earth,  
of all things visible and invisible.

And in one Lord Jesus Christ, the only begotten Son of God,  
begotten of his Father before all worlds,  
God of God, Light of Light,

very God of very God,  
begotten, not made, being of one substance with the Father;  
by whom all things were made;  
who for us men and for our salvation  
came down from heaven,  
and was incarnate by the Holy Spirit of the Virgin Mary,  
and was made man;  
and was crucified also for us under Pontius Pilate;  
he suffered and was buried;  
and the third day he rose again according to the Scriptures,  
and ascended into heaven, and is seated on the right hand of the  
Father;  
and he shall come again, with glory, to judge both the living and the dead;  
whose kingdom shall have no end.

And we believe in the Holy Spirit, the Lord and giver of life,  
who proceeds from the Father and the Son;  
who with the Father and the Son together is worshipped and glorified;  
who spoke by the prophets;  
and we believe in one holy catholic and apostolic church;  
we acknowledge one baptism for the remission of sins;  
and we look for the resurrection of the dead,  
and the life of the world to come. Amen.

### \*Gloria Patri

Glory be to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Ghost;  
As it was in the beginning, is now, and ever shall be,  
World without end. Amen, amen.

### Reading of Scripture

Rev. John van

Eyk

Acts 8:26-40

### Prayer for Illumination

### Sermon

Rev. John van Eyk

"One Man Sent; One Man Believes"

### Prayer of Consecration

### \*Hymn of Response— We Have Heard the Joyful Sound (#377)

We have heard the joyful sound: Jesus saves! Jesus saves!  
Spread the tidings all around: Jesus saves! Jesus saves!  
Bear the news to every land, climb the steeps and cross the waves;

Onward! 'tis our Lord's command; Jesus saves! Jesus saves!

Waft it on the rolling tide: Jesus saves! Jesus saves!  
Tell to sinners far and wide: Jesus saves! Jesus saves!  
Sing, ye islands of the sea! Echo back, ye ocean caves!  
Earth shall keep her jubilee; Jesus saves! Jesus saves!

Sing above the battle strife: Jesus saves! Jesus saves!  
By his death and endless life Jesus saves! Jesus saves!  
Sing it softly through the gloom, when the heart for mercy craves;  
Sing in triumph o'er the tomb: Jesus saves! Jesus saves!

Give the winds a mighty voice: Jesus saves! Jesus saves!  
Let the nations now rejoice; Jesus saves! Jesus saves!  
Shout salvation full and free, highest hills and deepest caves;  
This our song of victory: Jesus saves! Jesus saves!

## Overview of Process Towards Ordination

Rev. Jeff Kingswood

### Formula of Questions for Ordination

- Do you believe in one God—Father, Son and Holy Spirit—and do you confess anew the Lord Jesus Christ as your Saviour and Lord, and acknowledge Him Head over all things to the Church, which is His Body?
- Do you reaffirm your belief in the Holy Scripture of the Old and New Testaments to be the Word of the Living God, the only perfect rule of faith and practice, to which nothing is to be added and from which nothing is to be taken at any time or upon any pretext?
- Do you accept the doctrines of the Associate Reformed Presbyterian Church, contained in the Westminster Confession of Faith and Catechisms, as founded on the Word of God and as the expression of your own faith, and do you resolve to adhere thereto?
- Do you accept the government, discipline, and worship of the Associate Reformed Presbyterian Church as agreeable to and founded on the Word of God?
- Do you promise to submit in the spirit of love to the authority of the Presbytery in subordination to the General Synod, and to promote the unity, peace, purity, and prosperity of the Church?
- Do you sincerely resolve to fulfill all your responsibilities in your home life and in all your relations with your fellowman, following after righteousness, faith, and love?
- Do you accept and enter upon your ministry with a desire to glorify God and to be instrumental in strengthening His Church?
- Do you promise to preach the gospel in its purity and simplicity, declaring the whole counsel of God, and to perform all your official duties with zeal and faithfulness, seeking the salvation of sinners?

### Laying on of Hands

Ordination Prayer

Rev. John Shearouse

Right Hand of Fellowship

Declaration

Rev. Jeff Kingswood

Questions for Commissioning

Do you accept the call of Prison Evangelist for the Canadian Presbytery through Cornerstone Bible Institute, and do you promise to perform faithfully all the duties of this office, both public and private, to the best of your ability as you are led by the Holy Spirit?

Do you make these promises in the presence of him to whom you must ultimately give an account?

Question to the Presbytery

Do you, the members of Canadian Presbytery, now acknowledge and receive Rudy de Vries as your Prison Evangelist, and do you promise to give him all the honour, encouragement, cooperation, and support in the spirit of love to which this office entitles him and as is promised in the call.

Charge to the Minister

Rev. Jeff Kingswood

Address from the Cornerstone President

Rev. Henry Bartsch

Prayer for the Labours of Prison Evangelism

Mr. Cope Jonkman

\*Hymn of Closing— I Will Give Thanks to Thee

Psalm 57:9-11 – “I will give thanks to Thee...”

I will give thanks to Thee, O Lord among the people  
I will sing praises to Thee among the nations  
For Thy steadfast love is great, Is great to the heavens  
And Thy faithfulness, Thy faithfulness to the clouds

Be exalted O God above the heavens, Let Thy glory be over all the earth  
Be exalted O God above the heavens, Let Thy glory be over all the earth

\*Blessing

Rev. Rudy de Vries

Following the service all are welcome to enjoy a time of  
fellowship and refreshment.

## Biography of Roelof (Rudy) de Vries

Roelof de Vries was born on June 10, 1966 in Guelph, Ontario and raised in a Christian home. He is the fourth child out of six born to John and Christine de Vries. During his highschool years his teachers had difficulty pronouncing his name so he suggested they call him Rudy. However, many in his family remain affectionately attached to Roelof.

In his early twenties Rudy came to better understand Christ's work for him and became assured of Christ's sacrifice and love for him. He then publicly professed his faith and trust in Jesus. Soon after this he became somewhat restless in the family business and was urged by his parents to visit the mission field and/or to attend a Bible College. His first missions trip was to Mexico in 1987 and was followed by three more mission trips to Mexico in the following three years. During that time the Lord exposed Rudy to the many millions living and dying without Christ. In 1988 Rudy enrolled at Reformed Bible College in Michigan and it was during that time that Rudy felt a growing sense of call to missions.

After completing his undergraduate studies at RBC, and in further preparation for ministry, Rudy enrolled at Westminster Theological Seminary in California. After his first year of seminary Rudy married Katharine Wieringa, daughter of Jim and Maria Wieringa of Orangeville. During his first year of seminary, he began to visit a State Prison. This evolved into a regular ministry for Rudy in preaching and leading Bible Studies for the inmates until his graduation. In 1996 Rudy graduated with his Master of Divinity.

In late 1995 and early 1996 two men in Ontario were discussing their mutual interest in beginning a Reformed prison ministry. These men were Mr. Cope Jonkman and Mr. John van Eyk. In God's providence they were put in contact with Rudy during his last semester of seminary studies and after discussions and prayer, Rudy agreed to assist in the development of a prison ministry as the Executive Director of what became known as Cornerstone Bible Institute.

Since seminary, Rudy's desire has been to enter into full-time ordained ministry, and more particularly, into prison ministry. For the last 11 years Rudy has laboured as the Executive Director at Cornerstone and the Lord has graciously blessed the work enabling him to now move forward into full-time prison evangelism, called, ordained and commissioned by his church to minister to prisoners through Cornerstone Bible Institute.

Rudy and Kathy have been blessed with six children and are expecting their seventh in March.

## **APPENDIX 8 (September/07)**

### **Minutes of the Maritime Meeting of Presbyters**

**Date/ Location:** The Maritime portion of the Canadian Presbytery met on Monday, September 3, 2007 at the Glengarry Best Western Hotel, Truro Nova Scotia, commencing at 10: 00 a. m.

**Present:** Rev. Kevin Carter (Chairman), Rev. Richard Barnes, Rev. John Shearouse, Rev. David Els, Ruling Elder Reg Lindsay, Ruling Elder Mike Flewelling, Ruling Elder Alan Jones (appointed secretary)

**Opening:** Rev. Carter opened the meeting by reading Nehemiah 6: 15-16 and I Corinthians 3: 9-1. He elaborated on the challenge inherent in these passages describing The Need to be Wise Master Builders in the Kingdom of God. Prayer followed.

**Agenda:** the agenda was presented and approved as amended.

1) **Report of Sub-Committee:** two (2) reports from the sub-committee were received:

i) **Report of Meeting with Dr. Whytock:** the report was received pertaining to the meeting of Rev. Brian Murray and Ruling Elder Reg Lindsay with Dr. Jack Whytock as directed by the Eastern Canadian ARP Committee on Church Extension. The purpose of the meeting was to consult with Dr. Whytock regarding potential recommendations for the future of church planting in the Maritimes. Also to be discussed was the issue of pulpit supply for established churches in the Maritimes as well as the hope of the Committee to work with Haddington House to secure a man who could help in this area. It was also hoped that the man that would be secured for pulpit supply would be exposed to the Canadian ARP (specifically the Maritime Churches) and that he would eventually become a church planter in our midst. The summary of the discussion is as below:

1) Dr. Whytock indicated he knew of many fine Christian men already in the Maritimes who would be willing to fill our pulpits, and he would be happy to help us put together a list of suitable candidates.

**Actionable Item:** It was agreed to request Dr. Whytock to assemble and forward a list of Christian men already in the Maritimes willing to fill our pulpits when required.

2) Dr. Whytock advised the Committee to assess carefully the current state of our churches and the direction we are going. The need to fully understand the possible results of such direction and the need to make sure we solidify what we have before we move forward in the area of church planting was stressed.

**Discussion:** Discussion ensued regarding what our identity is as churches.

- It was expressed that collectively we reflect the spectrum of churches found within the North American General Synod.
- Further discussion focused on the need to consolidate/strengthen existing congregations. The need to “look in” while “looking out” was considered to be important at this time.
- The role of the Ruling Elder and the need to “grow” the Ruling Elders was seen as paramount to the growth of the churches in the Maritimes.
- It was felt that we have the same “elements” in our corporate worship services.
- The need to continue to hold to strong biblical preaching and teaching from our pulpits and to encourage and equip our families to reinforce this teaching at home as well as within church related groups, was strongly encouraged.
- It was concluded that the continued preaching/ teaching ministry of the churches was key to building healthy, vibrant churches.

3) Regarding the inquiry if he could possibly be more actively involved with the Presbytery in her church extension vision, Dr. Whytock indicated he did not want to over commit himself. He indicated that right now his time would more profitably be given to the writing of a second book, his work with MT3, and to the work of the General Synod. However, he did indicate that he desired to do his work as a presbyter as much as he was able.

ii) **Assistant Position Proposal:** Rev. Carter was asked to draft a document that would consider a mandate accompanied by candidate qualifications, duties, financial needs, and possible sources of funding for an assistant pastoral position within the Maritimes.

- **Goal:** The goal behind this proposal is to have a viable means of starting a new church plant within the Maritime Provinces. Acknowledging that church planting is taxing work, and acknowledging that our present ministers are not in a position to assume duties in another area, the availability of an assistant to do such work was seen as reasonable and positive. The idea would be to have such an individual attached to an established church, using it as a home base to labor in another community, with the goal of establishing a mission/ church.
- **Qualifications:** Suggested qualifications included: must at least be a licentiate of a Reformed Presbytery and approved by our Maritime Eastern Sub-committee, effective communication skills, be willing to travel extensively, and willing to a minimum two-year commitment.

- **Duties:** Duties would embrace developing a group of interested people into a mission/ church, be accountable to a particular Session reporting monthly as to his progress, assist his local ARP church as directed by that Session, and assist other Maritime ARP Churches when able and as directed by the Session.
- **Financial needs:** a salary package equitable to other Maritime minister's salary.
- **Funding Sources:** Funding possibly would be found from: CCDT, MR Trust Fund, contributions from Maritime ARP Churches, the Church he is made assistant of, and from the group being developed.

This report was received as information. Additional information was provided by Rev. Carter pertaining inquiry by Mr. Brandon Cranshaw regarding a potential position such as this.

**Action:** No action was taken at this time regarding this report.

## **2) Discussion Items From Trinity ARP:**

- i) **Developing Fraternal Relations with Other Fellow Reformed Churches:** there was consensus that we need to pursue with a goal to establishing/ enhancing fraternal relations with fellow Reformed Churches.

**Actionable Items:** It was further agreed to encourage each Session to contact sister Reformed Churches in their locale and commence dialoguing with them. It was also agreed to assure that the Presbytery informs and invites representatives from fellow Reformed Churches to our Presbytery meetings.

- ii) **Promoting our Maritime Churches in our Congregations:** agreement on this matter was evident.

**Actionable Items:** each church should be diligent to exchange prayer requests with each other through their ministers/ Sessions. The creation of an ARP Maritime Directory is to be undertaken.

- iii) **Pulpit Exchanges:** it was agreed that this was profitable in building further relations among ARP churches in the Maritimes.

**Actionable Item:** This practice is to be encouraged.

- iv) **Resolution of Conflict in the Church:** the need for Sessions to uphold each other in prayer was agreed upon. Prayer and correspondence of encouragement and words of counsel would also be welcome and valued.

## **3) Discussion Items from Covenants:**

- i) Request that letters of encouragement be circulated among the Maritime churches was warmly received.

#### **4) Other Items:**

- **St. John's, Newfoundland:** Rev. Shearouse advised us that contact had been made with him by a man representing a group of 12 people located in St. John's, Newfoundland. He indicated they were fond of the Westminster Confession of Faith. They currently meet for Bible Study. They come from various churches. They asked what the ARP could do for them.

**Actionable Item:** Rev. Shearouse was requested to continue to correspond with them. He will report on information received.

- **Halifax Outreach:** Covenant reported on outreach opportunities they are engaged in. Information was shared regarding a billboard sign containing the following "Are You Tired of Fluff on Sundays?" Information would be attached that would direct interested inquirers to a web site that would provide information pertaining this question, eventually leading to contact with the Covenant web-site. Covenant also revealed that 85% of the residents of Halifax Area are baptized people. They are working on drafting a letter "To Baptized Residents of Halifax" as a means of outreach and introducing Covenant Church to them.
- **Saint John, New Brunswick:** it was recognized that there exists a spiritual vacuum in Saint John and Fredericton. Mount Zion continues to provide oversight to three member families in Saint John.

**Action:** We were asked to pray for these two cities in New Brunswick.

- **Teaching Men:** discussion focused on the value of teaching men to take notes of sermons and encouraging them to ask constructive questions regarding the sermon and discussing these in a positive manner as a group.

**5) Assessment of our Meeting:** from our discussion, the following items are actionable:

- Request each Session to evaluate when/ where, etc., this annual meeting is held and its mandate.
- Each Session is requested to offer comments as to how to involve more Ruling Elders at this meeting.
- Each Session was asked to evaluate if the date of Monday, September 8, 2008 would enable more Ruling Elders to attend.
- A draft agenda is to be made available to each Session and minister by the end of May with modifications entertained until we meet.
- More time needs to be allotted in the agenda for discussion pertaining outreach.

**6) Meeting Wrap Up & Closing Prayer:** the meeting wrapped up at 3: 20 p. m.

following a time of prayer.

**7) Next Meeting Date:** TBA

Respectfully submitted,  
Alan Jones (acting secretary)

Rev. Kevin Carter (Chairman)