

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

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

## **Stated Spring Meeting**

April 26 - 27, 2012  
Riverside ARP Church  
Cambridge, Ontario



**Mr. Bill McKay**  
Stated Clerk

**Mr. Kevin Bigney**  
Moderator

## **OFFICERS OF THE CANADIAN PRESBYTERY**

### **MODERATOR**

(1 yr. Term expires June 30, 2012)

Mr. Kevin Bigney

87 Robinson Rd.,  
RR#1 Shubenachadie, NS  
B0N 2H0

### **VICE MODERATOR**

(1 yr. Term expires June 30, 2012)

Rev. John Shearouse

71 Fraser Rd.  
Timberlea, NS  
B3T 1J4

### **STATED CLERK**

(3 yr. Term expires June 30, 2013)

Mr. Bill McKay

1124 Tupper Gardens  
Woodstock, ON, Canada  
N4S 8K2

### **READING CLERK**

(3 yr. Term expires June 30, 2013)

Rev. Jeff Kingswood

172 Light St.  
Woodstock, ON, Canada  
N4S 6H4

### **TREASURER**

(3 yr. Term expires June 30, 2013)

Mr. Gary Armstrong

7 Kipling Dr.  
Woodstock, ON, Canada  
N4S 3C8

## **CHURCHES OF THE CANADIAN PRESBYTERY**

### **MARITIMES REGION**

Covenant Reformed Presbyterian Church

Covenanters ARP Church

Grace Fellowship Church, ARPC

Mt. Zion ARP Church

Trinity Presbyterian Church

### **ONTARIO REGION**

Grace Presbyterian Church

Reformed Hungarian Church

Riverside ARP Church

Trinity ARP Church

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**MINUTES OF THE CANADIAN PRESBYTERY,  
ASSOCIATE REFORMED PRESBYTERIAN CHURCHES IN CANADA,  
ARP GENERAL SYNOD  
STATED SPRING MEETING – April 26-27, 2012  
Riverside ARP Church  
Cambridge, Ontario**

The 2012 Stated Spring Meeting of the Canadian Presbytery was held on April 26-27 2012 and hosted by the Riverside ARPC Congregation (Cambridge, Ontario). Seventeen (17) presbyters were in attendance for this meeting of presbytery.

**Thursday – April 26, 2012**

The delegates for presbytery gathered for a time of Christian fellowship, discussion and refreshments prior to the beginning of the 2012 Stated Spring Meeting of the Canadian Presbytery. It is by God's grace and under His blessing that we gather as a court of His church. We give praise to God from whom all blessings flow.

**Presbytery Convenes for 2012 Stated Spring Meeting**

The Moderator of the Canadian Presbytery (2011/12), Mr. Kevin Bigney, called the presbyters to order at 9:20 a.m. and convened the 2012 Stated Spring Meeting of the Canadian Presbytery. Mr. Bigney 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 Riverside ARP Church, Rev. Jerry Hamstra extended warmest greetings and salutations to the presbyters and guests of the Canadian Presbytery.

**Calling of the Roll**

The Stated Clerk (Mr. Bill McKay) called the roll of presbyters for this stated meeting. The following members of the presbytery were in attendance.

a) **Ministers**

Rick Barnes	Henry Bartsch	Kevin Carter
Rudy deVries	Jerry Hamstra	Jeff Kingswood
Frank Kovacs	Brian Murray	Stephen Richardson
John Shearouse	Bill VanDoodewaard	

b) **Roll of Ruling Elders (as delegates to presbytery)**

Albert Gerrits (Covenanters ARPC)  
Ken Turner (Grace Presbyterian Church)  
Greig Park (Riverside ARPC)  
Frank Kovacs (Reformed Hungarian ARP Church)  
John Moerman (Trinity ARP – Chatham, ON)  
Mike Flewelling (Trinity – Woodstock, NB)

c) Officers of the Court

Moderator Kevin Bigney and Stated Clerk Bill McKay were present.

Dr. Jack Whytock, David Els, Andrew Savill and William Campbell were not present and sent their regrets regarding their absence from the 2012 Stated Spring Meeting.

Russ Kosits (Student of Theology) requested permission to be excused from the morning session of presbytery due to work commitments. Bill McKay and Mike Flewelling requested permission to be excused early due to their work commitments.

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

The Stated Clerk declared a quorum was present.

**Introduction of Guests and Visitors and Fraternal Delegates**

The following people were in attendance to these meetings: Ben Dunson, Adam Harris, Rev. Gerry Mynders and Jennifer Hovestadt.

**Report of the Moderator (Mr. Kevin Bigney)**

1. Presentation and Approval of the Docket

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

2. Appointment of the Moderator's Committees

Mr. Bigney appointed Dr. Bill VanDoodewaard and Rev. Stephen Richardson to serve on the Moderator's Committee for Excuses and Resolutions.

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

1. Approval of the Minutes of Presbytery

- **Motion:** To approve the Minutes of Presbytery for the March 8, 2012 Called Meeting. **M/S/C**

2. Presbytery Committee Restructuring Proposal – 2<sup>nd</sup> Reading

- **Motion:** To approve the 2<sup>nd</sup> reading of the changes to the Manual of Procedure. **M/S/C**  
**(SEE APPENDIX 1)**

3. Report on Correspondence Received

a) Memorial from Grace Presbyterian re. "Doctrinal Commitments Questionnaire" (See Appendix 2)

The presbytery has received a Memorial from Grace Presbyterian Church (Woodstock, ON) requesting the ARP General Synod consider having the Nominations Committee implement a "Doctrinal Commitments Questionnaire" when filling positions for the General Synod offices and boards.

- **Motion:** To have the presbytery form as a "Committee of the Whole" following the Report of the Stated Clerk in order to deliberate the merits of the memorial. **M/S/C**

b) Rev. Stephen Richardson

The presbytery has received a letter from Rev. Stephen Richardson expressing some

serious concerns over a perspective regarding the celebration Lord's Day that Jay Adams has written in a book (*Keeping the Sabbath Today?*). He is requesting counsel as to how to proceed.

- **Motion:** To refer this correspondence to the Minister & His Work Committee. **M/S/C**
- **Motion:** To adopt the report as a whole. **M/S/C**

### **Committee of the Whole**

a) **Memorial from Grace Presbyterian re. "Doctrinal Commitments Questionnaire" (See Appendix 2)**

- **Motion:** To move out of the Committee as a Whole and return to the regular session of presbytery. **M/S/C**
- **Motion:** To approve the memorial regarding the "Doctrinal Commitments Questionnaire"; and further, to forward it to the ARP General Synod. **M/S/C**

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

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

- **Motion:** Rev. Jeff Kingswood is requested to act as the Clerk Pro Tem in the absence of the Stated Clerk (Bill McKay) through these meetings. **M/S/C**
- Elders John Rood, John Moerman and student Russ Kosits were welcomed to the afternoon session.

### **COMMITTEE REPORTS**

#### **BOARD OF DIRECTORS (Rev. Kevin Carter)**

There was no report from this committee.

#### **NOMINATIONS COMMITTEE REPORT (Rev. Kevin Carter)**

##### **1. Moderator**

- **Motion:** That Rev. Kevin Carter (Covenanters ARP Church) is accepted by acclamation to the office of Moderator of the Canadian Presbytery for 2012/13. **M/S/C**

##### **2. Vice-moderator**

Rev. Carter presented the name of Ruling Elder John Moerman to serve as Vice-Moderator of the Canadian Presbytery for 2012/13.

- **Motion:** To confirm John Moerman as Vice-Moderator of the Canadian Presbytery for 2012/13. **M/S/C**

##### **3. Standing Committees**

- **Motion:** It is moved that all standing committees be maintained with current members until Dec.31, 2012. The Nominations Committee will then present new committee appointments according to the new restructuring of three committees at the Sept.27, 2012 meeting of Presbytery, and new committees will take effect Jan.1, 2013. The appointments shall then be

effective until June 30, 2014. **M/S/C**

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

#### **CONGREGATIONAL LIFE COMMITTEE**

##### **1. Report of Associate Reformed Presbyterian Church Women's Ministry**

- **Motion:** to grant Privilege of the Floor to Miss Jennifer Hovestadt for her presentation on the Associate Reformed Presbyterian Church Women's Ministry. **M/S/C**

Jennifer made a presentation on behalf of the Associate Reformed Presbyterian Church Women's Ministry. **(See Appendix 3)**

Kevin Carter offered prayer for Jennifer and her work with the Women's Ministry in the Canadian Presbytery and also Cornerstone Bible Institute.

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

The Statistical reports were reviewed and accepted. Congregations are encouraged to ensure the timely submission of these reports.

##### **3. Session Minutes to be Examined**

The 2011 Session Minutes from Grace Presbyterian Church, Trinity ARP Church, Riverside Associate Reformed Presbyterian Church and the Reformed Hungarian Presbyterian Church were received and examined according to the Form of Government.

- **Motion:** to receive and approve the minutes from Grace Presbyterian Church, Riverside Associate Reformed Presbyterian Church, Trinity ARP Church and the Reformed Hungarian Church ARP. **M/S/C**
  - The Stated Clerk will email a communication to the congregational clerks of session on how the minutes need to be kept and the standard that is required.
- **Motion:** To adopt the report as a whole. **M/S/C**

#### **STEWARDSHIP COMMITTEE REPORT (Rev. John Shearouse)**

##### **1. 2011 Financial Report (See Appendix 4 & 5)**

The Financial Report for 2011 (year-end) and the Financial Report for 2012 (to April 14, 2012) was presented for information only. Covenanters ARP Church gave a gift to the Church Development Trust that was not reported and a correction will be made accordingly.

- **Motion:** To receive the financial reports for information. **M/S/C**

##### **2. Treasurer**

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

##### **3. Dr. Russ Kosits**

Approval of Dr. Russ Kosits' request for continued funding of his course work.

##### **4. Proposed Tillsonburg Church Plant**

The request for funding (\$5,000) for the work in Tillsonburg was approved.

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

#### **OUTREACH CANADA (Rev. Henry Bartsch)**

1. Henry Bartsch reported on the ONA meetings this Spring and reported the availability of funds to help church planters. Because of funding restrictions at the Synod level ONA is trying several new methods to raise money for church planting. Those overseeing church plants are encouraged to send information to ONA for the monthly prayer calendar.

2. Rev. Rudy deVries on his work with Redemption Prison ministries **(See Appendix 5)**

3. Kingston Church Plant Exploration **(See Appendix 6)**

Henry Bartsch also gave more details on future plans for the Kingston work and in particular an outreach event planned for this Fall sometime. Churches are encouraged to publicize this among their members.

Mike Flewelling and John Shearouse offered prayer for Rudy and his work.

4. Redemption Prison Ministry

The Presbytery was requested by Redemption Prison Ministry to have a representative appointed to its board. The following motion was received:

- **Motion:** That the Canadian Presbytery will provide a member of the Presbytery to serve on the RPM Board and to liaise annually between the Presbytery and Redemption Prison Ministry regarding Rudy de Vries' ministry. **M/S/C**

5. Request for financial assistance with a Tillsonburg Church Plant

- **Motion:** That the request for \$5,000 be approved for the further exploration of the viability of a church plant in Tillsonburg, ON; and further, these monies are to be administered through the deacons of Grace Presbyterian Church, Woodstock, ON. **M/S/C**

Rick Barnes offered prayer for this work.

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

#### **MINISTER AND HIS WORK (Rev. Jeff Kingswood)**

1. Review of Annual Statistical Reports

The Annual Presbytery reports were reviewed and accepted.

2. Report on Student Dr. Russell Kosits

A report was received from Dr. Kosits regarding his studies and his work at Redeemer University. He has completed five seminary courses and is looking to start Greek this summer. His request for course funding was forwarded to Stewardship for approval.

3. Adam Harris

The M&HW Committee met with Adam Harris, heard his testimony, and look forward to eventually receive him under care.



4. Dr. Ben Dunson

- **Motion:** That Dr. Ben Dunson be received as a student under care; and further that the Rev. Dr. Wm. VanDoodewaard be appointed as his mentor while Dr. Dunson prepares for preaching in the Fall and licensure examinations in the Spring 2013. **M/S/C**
- The questions for licensure were read and it was pronounced that Ben was now a student under care of Presbytery.

Rev. Henry Bartsch offered prayer for our new student.

5. Correspondence from Rev. Steve Richardson

The Rev. Steve Richardson's letter with regard to Dr. Jay Adams' book, *Keeping the Sabbath Today?*, was discussed. The Committee moves:

- **Motion:** That each Presbyter read the book in preparation for a discussion at the Fall meeting and that if required a committee of Presbytery be appointed at that meeting to draft a charge to be communicated to Second Presbytery. **M/S/C**
- **Motion:** To receive the report of the committee as a whole. **M/S/C**

**REPORTS OF MODERATOR'S COMMITTEE**

1. Excuses and Absences

Excuses for Absent with excuse were received and approved from:

Mike Flewelling – absent Friday only  
Bill McKay – absent Thursday afternoon.  
Jack Whytock – absent all  
Bill Campbell – absent all  
David Els – absent all  
Andrew Savill – absent all

2. Resolutions

The following motion from the Excuses and Resolutions Committee was presented by Dr. Wm. VanDoodewaard.

- **Motion:** "The Canada Presbytery hereby gives thanks to God for the gracious love and hospitality shown by the Riverside ARP congregation in warmly welcoming us, providing nourishment for our bodies and encouragement for our souls." **M/S/C**

This resolution will be conveyed to the congregation of Riverside ARP Church.

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

**New Business**

Henry Bartsch communicated an offer by Alistair Mitchell of ARP Connect that he would be willing to meet with any congregation with a Moslem population in its area and who would like to undertake ministry in this area.

### **UNFINISHED BUSINESS**

There was no Unfinished Business to attend to.

- **Motion:** That the Presbytery meet for worship and prayer on Friday morning at 9:30 am.  
**M/S/C**

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

**September 27-28/12:** Covenanters ARPC, Cambridge, NS

**April 25-26/13:** Trinity ARP Church, Chatham, ON

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

At 4:05 p.m., it was unanimously agreed that the Presbytery would be adjourned with the pronouncement of the benediction at the evening worship service.

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

### **DINNER**

At 5:00 pm the presbytery met for dinner.

### **Service of Worship and Communion**

The presbyters and friends of the Canadian Presbytery gathered together again at 7:00 p.m. with the congregation and friends of Riverside ARP Church for a time of worship and communion. Rev. Rudy de Vries presided over the service and Rev. Jerry Hamstra brought God's Word to the congregation. A time of fellowship followed the worship service.

Respectfully submitted and attested by:

Mr. Bill McKay  
Stated Clerk

Mr. Kevin Bigney  
Moderator

**APPENDIX 1 (April/12)****Presbytery Committee Restructuring Proposal**

The following is a proposal to restructure Presbytery committees with the purpose of both reducing the number of committees and of reassessing duties for each. It is recognized we are a small presbytery, and this restructuring is trying to manage the work of Presbytery within its limits of manpower, but we do not want to restructure such that future growth means doing this task again. What this proposal seeks to do is balance both issues.

Below are the following: (1) a list of the present committees with a brief summary of the terms of membership and duties as listed in the Manual of Procedure [MoP]; (2) a proposed restructuring from 6 to 3 committees; (3) notes that need to be considered for each committee about restructuring.

**(1) Present Committees, membership terms, duties:** this overview is given to see the current requirements and duties of each. Some of the requirements have Synod responsibilities to maintain.

**1. Outreach Canada:**

Membership - minimum of 4 Presbyters with special interests/abilities  
- Chairman represents Presbytery on Synod's ONA Board

Duties - Promote evangelism and church extension  
- Promote Synod's programs on evangelism and church extension  
- Help non self-supporting churches with pulpit supply  
- Oversee mission congregations  
- Assist non self-supporting churches with building needs  
- Work with M&HW Committee to secure pastor/stated supply for Mission congregations  
- Oversee the organization/reception of new congregations.

**2. Congregational Life:**

Membership - minimum of 4 Presbyters with special interests/abilities

Duties - Report on local congregations of Presbytery  
- Report on trends/programs/activities and receiving all newsletters of each congregation and organizations within each congregation.  
- Maintain the history of Presbytery and its congregations  
- Examine and report on Session/congregational meeting records  
- Give report on delinquencies of congregations  
- Promote/publicize and oversee publications of the Presbytery

**3. Minister & His Work [M&HW]:**

Membership - minimum of 4 Presbyters with special interests/abilities  
- must have balance between teaching and ruling elders and represent the churches [east/west]  
- requires a minimum quorum of 3 Presbyters to meet

Duties - Oversee the work of the ministers of Presbytery  
- Oversee candidates for gospel ministry  
- Oversee Students under care of Presbytery  
- Oversee licensure/ordination/installation of ministers  
- Oversee particular Churches which have no minister

- Transfer/dissolve pastoral relations with congregations
- Guard ethical matters concerning activities of pastors with former congregations

**4. Nominations:**

- Membership      - minimum of 4 Presbyters with special interests/abilities  
                         -Chairman represents Presbytery on Synod Board
- Duties      - Seek best available people to fill the offices and committees of Presbytery  
                 - Engage Sessions of each congregation to above duties  
                 - Replace delinquent committee members by next stated meeting

**5. Stewardship:**

- Membership      - minimum of 4 Presbyters with special interests/abilities  
                         - Treasurer is an ex-officio member  
                         - Chairman represents Presbytery on Synod Board
- Duties      - Develop programs to deepen commitments of Presbytery's Churches in areas of time / abilities /  
                         material goods  
                 - Help churches understand Synod's stewardship programs  
                 - Promote stewardship of Churches  
                 - Responsible for Denominational Ministry Programs of Presbytery  
                 - Coordinate budget needs of Presbytery committees  
                 - Prepare Presbytery's annual budget  
                 - Print/distribute/authorize Presbytery's expenses

**6. Board of Directors:**

- Membership      - minimum of 5 Presbyters with special interests/abilities  
                         - elected for 6 year terms
- Duties      - Handle property matters for Presbytery  
                 - Handle mortgage matters for Presbytery  
                 - Maintain F.O.G. concerning church property within Presbytery  
                 - Ensure matters of particular congregations' deeds are maintained  
                 - Handle liability issues concerning Presbytery and Mission congregations.

(2) Restructuring from 6 committees to 3: this restructuring requires adding more duties to each committee that may not have direct bearing on the intent of the original committee, and so requires all to change their thinking on the purpose of the committee. Again additional duties are highlighted as to the committee they come from – i.e. *[from M&HW]*.

**1. Outreach Canada:**

- Membership      - minimum of 5 Presbyters with special interests/abilities  
                         - Chairman represents Presbytery on Synod's ONA Board  
                         - requires a minimum quorum of 3 Presbyters to meet
- Duties      - Promote evangelism and church extension  
                 - Promote Synod's programs on evangelism and church extension  
                 - Help non self-supporting churches with pulpit supply  
                 - Oversee mission congregations  
                 - Assist non self-supporting churches with building needs

- Work with M&HW Committee to secure pastor/stated supply for Mission congregations
- Oversee the organization/reception of new congregations.
- [new] Assist particular congregations in daughter plants and chapel ministry.*
- [from Congregational life] Promote/publicize and oversee publications of the Presbytery*

## **2. M&HW & Nominations:**

- Membership
- minimum of 5 Presbyters with special interests/abilities
  - must have balance between teaching and ruling elders and represent the churches [east/west]
  - *[from Nominations] Chairman represents Presbytery on Synod Board of Nominations*
  - requires a minimum quorum of 3 Presbyters to meet
- Duties
- *[from nominations] Seek best available people to fill the offices and committees of Presbytery*
  - *Engage Sessions of each congregation to above duties*
  - *Replace delinquent committee members by next stated meeting*
  - Oversee the work of the ministers of Presbytery
  - Oversee candidates for gospel ministry
  - Oversee Students under care of Presbytery
  - Oversee licensure/ordination/installation of ministers
  - Oversee particular Churches which have no minister
  - Transfer/dissolve pastoral relations with congregations
  - Guard ethical matters concerning activities of pastors with former congregations

**4. Board of Directors:** [this title needs to remain because of the CRA business regulations; but this committee would include Congregational Life and Stewardship]

- Membership
- minimum of 5 Presbyters with special interests/abilities
  - *[from Stewardship] Treasurer is an ex-officio member*
  - *[from Stewardship] Chairman represents Presbytery on Synod Board of Stewardship*
  - elected for 6 year terms
  - requires a minimum quorum of 3 Presbyters to meet

- Duties
- Handle property matters for Presbytery
  - Handle mortgage matters for Presbytery
  - Maintain F.O.G. concerning church property within Presbytery
  - Ensure matters of particular congregations' deeds are maintained
  - Handle liability issues concerning Presbytery and Mission congregations.

*[The following duties are from Stewardship]*

- *Develop programs to deepen commitments of Presbytery's Churches in areas of time / abilities / material goods*
- *Help churches understand Synod's stewardship programs*
- *Promote stewardship of Churches*
- *Responsible for Denominational Ministry Programs of Presbytery*
- *Coordinate budget needs of Presbytery committees*
- *Prepare Presbytery's annual budget*
- *Print/distribute/authorize Presbytery's expenses*

*[The following duties are from Congregational Life]*

- *Report on local congregations of Presbytery*
- *Report on trends/programs/activities and receiving all newsletters of each congregation and organizations within each congregation.*
- *Maintain the history of Presbytery and its congregations*
- *Examine and report on Session/congregational meeting records*
- *Give report on delinquencies of congregations*
- [NEW] –Excuses & resolutions report*

(3) Notes that need to be considered for each committee about restructuring: the 3 committee proposal will work even as our Presbytery grows, particularly if some of the following points are in place:

- a) Each committee would have minimum 6-7 men serving
- b) Each committee can sublet duties to 2-3 men – i.e. M&HW can assign the nominations duties, which is mostly once a year duty, to a couple men to take care of and bring the report back to the committee for recommendation to Presbytery.
- c) The Chairman of each committee would have to do a bit more overseeing, but should not bear the brunt of the work. Having a vice-chairman per committee will be necessary to help with the workload.
- d) Perhaps most obvious and important, the Chairman of each committee will have to make sure that all teaching and ruling elders are engaged in their committee duties. Since it is difficult for some ruling elders to attend Presbytery meetings their involvement at the committee level becomes even more necessary. For some it is not just getting the time off, but loss of salary that inhibits their ability to attend, for others it is neglect. Perhaps Presbytery needs to consider ways to more engage ruling elders to their Presbytery duties.
- e) This restructuring is going to mean more work apart from Presbytery's stated meetings by conference calls, but that is the purpose of these committees – to do the leg-work outside of Presbytery.
- f) Reconsider the 1-year hiatus rule for serving on a committee. Each committee is to have men with *special interest and ability*, and if the committee is working very well, why disrupt it. If someone wants to change from a committee after their term, then consider it.
- g) At times some matters are double discussed in committee and on the floor of Presbytery. I do not know the way around this except to say to Chairmen that if the committee is going to be consumed on an issue, then perhaps it should be brought to the floor of the Presbytery as a whole. The Moderator can then assume responsibility for the time devoted to a matter.
- h) Extra time would **not** need to be devoted to Presbytery because, though the 3 standing committees have more duties, instead of 6 committees reporting to the floor of Presbytery, only 3 will, but with the same matters the 6 would have.
- i) Make Presbytery's docket simpler. [i.e. remove roll call as we have sign up sheets]
- j) The Executive Committee of Presbytery would not be affected, except that if a chairman cannot be present then have a provision for the vice-chair of the committees to fill his spot.

Respectfully

Kevin Carter [Chair], Brian Murray and Rudy deVries

**APPENDIX 2 (April/12)**

**Memorial For Doctrinal Commitments Questionnaire For the  
Committee on Nominations**

Whereas it has been of concern that the present guidelines contained in the description of belief and adherence to the basic doctrines of evangelical Christianity for the evaluation of nominees for all the boards and committees of Synod are helpful but substantially limited in ascertaining the broader scope of doctrinal beliefs of potential nominees in relation to those of the Associate Reformed Presbyterian Church, the Canada Presbytery hereby memorializes Synod to:

- (1) Instruct the Committee on Nominations to have all prospective nominees additionally complete, sign and date the attached “Doctrinal Commitments Questionnaire” (See Appendix A) prior to evaluation by the Committee on Nominations.
- (2) Instruct the Committee on Nominations to include the respective answered copies of this questionnaire (by those nominees proposed by the Committee on Nominations to the General Synod) in the report of the Committee on Nominations to the General Synod, thereby allowing Synod delegates to have a more fully informed understanding of the doctrinal commitments of nominees presented prior to Synod taking action on the report of the Committee.
- (3) Encourage all those individuals, committees, and Boards who seek to make nominations from the floor of Synod to be prepared to provide a copy of this form, completed by the nominee, to the Synod as a body in order to enable an equal consideration of the nominee.

**Appendix A:**

**Doctrinal Commitments Questionnaire for Nominees to all the Boards and Committees of the Associate Reformed Presbyterian Church General Synod**

(1) Have you read the standards of the Associate Reformed Presbyterian Church (the Westminster Confession of Faith, and Westminster Larger and Shorter Catechisms)?

Yes                      No

(2) Do you agree to the doctrine contained in the subordinate standards of the Associate Reformed Presbyterian Church (the Westminster Confession of Faith, and Westminster Larger and Shorter Catechisms) as a faithful summary of the teaching of the Scriptures of the Old and New Testament?

Yes                      No

(3) Do you agree to the commitment of the Associate Reformed Presbyterian Church to the doctrine of the inerrancy of the Scriptures of the Old and New Testaments?

Yes                      No

(4) Are you committed to promoting and upholding these doctrines in service to the Lord Jesus Christ as King and Head of His Church, and the particular denomination of the Associate Reformed Presbyterian Church?

Yes                      No

(5) Do you have any objections to, disagreements or concerns with any part(s) of above doctrinal standards and commitments of the Associate Reformed Presbyterian Church?

Yes                      No

If so, please explain. Where you have differences or concerns please also briefly explain how these will influence or impact your particular service to the Associate Reformed Presbyterian Church. (If necessary, attach a separate sheet with your answer to this question.)

(6) If your commitment to any of the above stated doctrinal standards and commitments of the Associate Reformed Presbyterian Church changes during the term of your service will you notify the chair of your committee or board, and either demit your position, or submit to the processes and internal bylaws of the committee or board of whom you are a member, as well as the higher authority of the Synod of the Associate Reformed Presbyterian Church, where it deems appropriate as the appointing body, in reassessing your term of service?

Yes                      No



(7) If you are considered delinquent in your stated duties and/or doctrinal commitment as a committee or board member, will you submit to the processes and internal bylaws of the committee or board of whom you are a member, as well as the higher authority of the Synod of the Associate Reformed Presbyterian Church, where it deems appropriate as the appointing body, in reassessing your term of service?

Yes

No

(8) If deemed appropriate by the board or committee of whom you are a member, due to either changed doctrinal commitments, or delinquency in stated duties and/or doctrinal commitment, and following internal review according to established bylaws where such exist for the board or committee, or upon review by the higher authority of the Synod of the Associate Reformed Presbyterian Church, where it deems appropriate as the appointing body, will you submit to your removal from your position of service on the committee or board to which you are nominated?

Yes

No

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Signature: \_\_\_\_\_

Date: \_\_\_\_\_

### **APPENDIX 3 (April/12)**

#### **Women's Ministry Report to the Congregational Life Committee Spring Presbytery Meeting April 26, 2012**

Hello Gentlemen. It has been my pleasure to be available to serve the churches again this past year. There are just a few things that have taken place over the last year to report.

In October I was able to 'attend' a board meeting via Skype. During this time I talked with the other Presidents and Representatives and encouraged them in working within the churches and the care of the church leaders. Though sometimes I feel like a bit of a broken record, as new ladies come on the board and in leadership positions, it seems that there is a real awareness of the proper roles of women in the church. This has been very encouraging to see and hear.

There were some changes that were made as far as retreat planning goes, last year and in September I was able to meet with the ladies from Grace in Woodstock to plan the retreat for the spring. It was such a blessing to be involved in these planning meetings and see their excitement as the details came together and were played out.

Kevin & Joanne Carter were the speakers at the retreat held on March 23 & 24. The topic came from Titus 2 on Nurturing in Grace. What a great weekend with 60 ladies in attendance from Riverside, Grace and Trinity! Kevin spoke on Friday evening and gave us an overview of the letter to Titus and the importance of order. Without order there is chaos and the church doesn't do its work properly. When there is order then we are better witnesses. He also spoke about a self righteousness that we can easily fall into and the need for grace. Grace brings humility, repentance and fruit in our lives as we seek to serve the Lord above all.

Joanne spoke to us twice on Saturday and share some insights into "Who is the older woman?" and "What does the older woman do?". The discussions that followed these sessions were very helpful in realizing that we are all the older woman and how important it is to teach the biblical principles of godliness (with grace), self control, loving husbands and children, submission and hospitality.

The ladies were all encouraged to take what they've learned back to their churches and share with those that weren't able to attend and put into practice the older teaching the younger. We are very excited to see how the Lord will use this time that was spent together to grow his church.

As the ladies came together it was wonderful to see the relationships that have grown through these events. As I was talking with some women over lunch, we discussed the value of these retreats and being able to meet with others who have similar struggles and how because we come from smaller congregations, these events are helpful in being able to meet others who have gone or are going through similar struggles and how we can encourage each other in trusting the Lord.

I look forward to working with the ladies from Riverside in Cambridge on the retreat for next year.

The Spring issue of the ARP Encouragers is also here for you to take back to your churches. Whenever I think that I don't know what I'm going to put in there, the Lord brings to my attention things that are going on in the church that we really don't deal with often. In the fall there was an article on how to encourage couples that struggle with infertility and this issue there is an article on encouraging couples who are adopting. These issues that seem to be very rare in our churches and these couples seem to fall through the cracks because they aren't the 'normal'. In the fall I hope to have an article about children with disabilities (this was asked of me at the retreat) as it is again something that we are not all aware of as far as struggles and how we can encourage each other in the body of Christ.

I'm still decided on whether or not to attend the Annual meeting at Bon Clarken in July – but if I can't attend I hope to be able to Skype into at least one of the meetings. I hope to know in the next few weeks if that will work.

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

Respectfully Submitted  
Jennifer Hovestadt

**APPENDIX 4 (April/12)****Associate Reformed Presbyterian Churches  
in Canada****Treasurer's Report****for the period ending December 23, 2011**

	Expense Fund	Denominational Ministry Fund	Canadian Church Development Trust	Total All Funds 2011	Total All Funds 2010
<b>RECEIPTS</b>	<b>Actual</b>	<b>Actual</b>	<b>Actual</b>		
Covenant Reformed	\$ 800.00	\$ 400.00	\$ 1,000.00	\$ 2,200.00	\$ 2,000.00
Covenanters	500.00	100.00	-	600.00	1,000.00
Grace Fellowship, NS	1,200.00	1,000.00	1,000.00	3,200.00	3,500.00
Grace Presbyterian, ON	3,000.00	1,500.00	3,365.70	7,865.70	6,732.40
Mount Zion	-	-	-	-	-
Reformed Hungarian	200.00	50.00	500.00	750.00	750.00
Riverside	1,500.00	150.00	-	1,650.00	5,800.00
Trinity Chatham, ON	1,000.00	200.00	1,000.00	2,200.00	2,200.00
Trinity Woodstock, NB	1,000.00	200.00	1,000.00	2,200.00	2,200.00
Interest	-	-	-	-	319.62
<b>TOTAL RECEIPTS</b>	<b>9,200.00</b>	<b>3,600.00</b>	<b>7,865.70</b>	<b>20,665.70</b>	<b>24,502.02</b>
<b>DISBURSEMENTS</b>	<b>Budget</b>	<b>Budget</b>	<b>Budget</b>		
Church plants - Kingston	-	-	-	-	723.90
Travel	800.35	3,000.00	-	800.35	3,310.59
Moderator/Clerk Travel	-	2,000.00	-	-	-
Telephone, teleconference calls	382.57	500.00	-	382.57	373.01
Treasurer's Work, Postage, Bank Chgs, Office	255.44	750.00	-	255.44	481.96
Student Bursaries & Expenses	-	4,000.00	-	-	500.00
Internship	24,000.00	24,000.00	-	24,000.00	-
Miscellaneous	-	-	-	-	6,000.00
<b>TOTAL DISBURSEMENTS</b>	<b>25,438.36</b>	<b>34,250.00</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>25,438.36</b>	<b>11,389.46</b>
<b>Excess - Receipts over Disbursements</b>	<b>(16,238.36)</b>	<b>\$ (34,250.00)</b>	<b>3,600.00</b>	<b>\$ -</b>	<b>13,112.56</b>
Bank and Investments - January 1	26,381.41	29,371.16	125,965.30	181,717.87	168,605.31
Bank and Investments - Oct 3	\$ 10,143.05	\$ 32,971.16	\$ 133,831.00	\$ 176,945.21	\$ 181,717.87
<b>Represented by:</b>					
Bank Balance				\$ 34,837.85	\$ 39,610.51
Investment Certificates				142,107.36	142,107.36
Total Funds - Oct 03				\$ 176,945.21	\$ 181,717.87

**APPENDIX 5 (April/11)**

Associate Reformed Presbyterian Churches in Canada							
Treasurer's Report							
for the period ending April 14, 2012							
	Expense Fund	Denominational Ministry Fund		Canadian Church Development Trust		Total All Funds 2012	Total All Funds 2011
<b>RECEIPTS</b>	<u>Actual</u>	<u>Actual</u>		<u>Actual</u>			
Covenant Reformed	\$ -	\$ -		\$ -		\$ -	\$ 2,200.00
Covenanters	-	-		-		-	600.00
Grace Fellowship, NS	300.00	250.00		250.00		800.00	3,200.00
Grace Presbyterian, ON	-	-		-		-	7,865.70
Mount Zion	-	-		-		-	-
Reformed Hungarian	-	-		-		-	750.00
Riverside	-	-		-		-	1,650.00
Trinity Chatham, ON	1,000.00	200.00		1,000.00		2,200.00	2,200.00
Trinity Woodstock, NB	-	-		-		-	2,200.00
Interest	-	-		-		-	-
<b>TOTAL RECEIPTS</b>	<u>1,300.00</u>	<u>450.00</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>1,250.00</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>3,000.00</u>	<u>20,655.70</u>
<b>DISBURSEMENTS</b>	<u>Budget</u>			<u>Budget</u>			
Church plants - Kingston	-	-	-	577.30	7,500.00	577.30	-
Travel	-	3,000.00	-	-	-	-	800.35
Moderator/Clerk Travel	-	2,000.00	-	-	-	-	-
Telephone, teleconference calls	483.79	500.00	-	-	-	483.79	382.57
Treasurer's Work, Postage, Bank Chgs, Office	-	750.00	-	-	-	-	255.44
Student Bursaries & Expenses	-	4,000.00	-	-	-	-	-
Internship	-	-	-	-	-	-	24,000.00
Miscellaneous	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
<b>TOTAL DISBURSEMENTS</b>	<u>483.79</u>	<u>10,250.00</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>577.30</u>	<u>7,500.00</u>	<u>1,061.09</u>	<u>25,438.36</u>
<b>Excess - Receipts over Disbursements</b>	<u>816.21</u>	<u>\$ (10,250.00)</u>	<u>450.00</u>	<u>672.70</u>	<u>\$ (7,500.00)</u>	<u>1,938.91</u>	<u>(4,772.66)</u>
Bank and Investments - January 1	<u>10,143.05</u>		<u>32,971.16</u>	<u>133,831.00</u>		<u>176,945.21</u>	<u>181,717.87</u>
Bank and Investments - Oct 3	<u>\$ 10,959.26</u>		<u>\$ 33,421.16</u>	<u>\$134,503.70</u>		<u>\$ 178,884.12</u>	<u>\$176,945.21</u>
<b>Represented by:</b>							
Bank Balance						\$ 36,776.76	\$ 34,837.85
Investment Certificates						<u>142,107.36</u>	<u>142,107.36</u>
Total Funds - Oct 03						<u>\$ 178,884.12</u>	<u>\$176,945.21</u>

**APPENDIX 6 (April/12)**

***Ministry Report from Rudy de Vries***  
***Prison Evangelist for the Canadian Presbytery***

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*For the period of October 1, 2011 to March 31, 2012*  
*Prepared for the Outreach Canada Committee of the Canadian Presbytery*  
*April 26-27, 2012 – Cambridge, ON.*

**1. In Prison Ministry**

- a. I've been able to have 134 out of 194 planned one on one visits with inmates at 9 different prisons
- b. Led 18 group Bible Studies at Quinte Detention Centre – average of 4 inmates per study
- c. In a new ministry opportunity that began in January I provide escort to inmates desiring to attend Sunday morning worship outside of prison at a local church. Thus far I have escorted 2 inmates to 11 Sunday services.
- d. Planned and lead 4 chapel services – approx 170 inmates total; attended and participated in 2 other chapel services
- e. The opportunity to lead Bible studies for the Christian Fellowship Group at Joyceville Institution has fallen through for now given some restructuring of programs at the prison.
- f. There is a new opportunity at Frontenac Institution for a Bible Study. I am leading a 5 week study on "Biblical Forgiveness".
- g. I am in discussions with Chaplaincy at Pittsburg Inst to provide Escort to several inmates to my office for counseling, volunteering, and fellowship.
- h. People have been asking me how the announced closing of Kingston Penitentiary and the Regional Treatment Centre will affect me. Many of the inmates will be moved to existing facilities in Ontario where new maximum security units are currently being constructed. It remains to be seen if I will have the same access to them or not.

**2. Interactions with Chaplains**

- a. Relationships with Chaplains continue to build. Some are thankful for my labours, while others are difficult to read. Their sentiments usually run parallel with their gospel commitments or the lack thereof.

**3. Reintegration Opportunities**

- a. I continue contact and ministry with a number of men who I first ministered to while in prison.
- b. Last fall we celebrated with Ron who reached the 10yr mark since his release from a total of 19 years in federal prison distributed over three virtually back to back sentences. He was a three time recidivist until the Lord did a work of grace in his heart and life during his final sentence. He faithfully attends an evangelical church in Kitchener and continues to enjoy restored relationships with this children and grandchildren.

**4. Other Preaching and Ministry Opportunities**

- a. I provide some leadership to the Kingston core group and its activities and services. In November we began worshipping on Sunday evenings at several homes and on April 1 we held our first monthly public service.

**5. Professional Development**

- a. I recently attended the Philadelphia Conference on Reformed Theology

**6. Relationship with Redemption Prison Ministry Board and Staff**

- a. The Board decided to change our ministry name from Cornerstone Bible Institute to Redemption Prison Ministry effective January 1, 2012.

- b. My relationship with the Board of Directors is good.
- c. I enjoyed hosting two board members in Kingston in January.
- d. Relationships with fellow staff are good as well.

**7. Involvement in the Canadian Presbytery and Synod**

- a. Continue involvement with Outreach Canada and its sub-committee focusing on the Kingston plant
- b. Provided input to Jennifer Hovestadt and her work for the Women's Ministry
- c. Serve on the Interchurch Relations Committee of Synod

**8. Assessment of Workload**

- a. My workload has been increasing since I am on-site in Kingston now. I continue to have new ministry opportunities.
- b. My assessment of my workload is that, though I am busier, there is a helpful and healthy routine taking shape from week to week. I find it manageable and enjoyable.

**9. Joys and Struggles of Ministry**

- a. Joys
  - i. The privilege of ministering to men who are searching for answers
  - ii. To see men growing in grace and knowledge of Jesus Christ
  - iii. My family's indispensable love and support
  - iv. It is a joy to pick up men from prison and take them to church with me
  - v. I thoroughly enjoy the weekly Bible study at the Quinte Detention Centre and the new study on "Forgiveness" at Frontenac Institution.
- b. Struggles
  - i. I can become cynical sometimes towards inmates. This affects my level of compassion and love for them.

**10. Prayer Requests**

- a. Pray for more opportunities to preach the glorious gospel of Christ.
- b. That I would keep Christ and his work central in my message and ministry.
- c. Pray for the Lord's direction regarding the new opportunity at Frontenac Inst and for an open door for Bible Study at Joyceville Inst.
- d. Pray for safety as I visit the prisons.
- e. Pray for lifers – some of whom get very discouraged due to seemingly no hope for release. One of the budgetary cutbacks going forward in CSC is that an organization called "Lifeline" is losing funding for its work with lifers.
- f. Pray for Ben who was released last year and is now facing new charges from a family member which are false

**APPENDIX 7 (April/12)**

**Kingston Church Plant Report  
For the Outreach Canada Committee of the Canadian Presbytery  
April 26, 2012**

Dear Brothers,

With gratitude to God we bring this report of what the Lord is doing in Kingston.

Much has happened since last October. In November the core group (two families) began to worship together in one another's homes each Lord's Day evening. Every service consists of scripture reading, singing, prayer, and listening to an online or downloaded sermon and is followed by a fellowship time.

In January a small Reformed family and a Reformed single began to worship with us and have continued to date. Both households are in Kingston for education purposes and will be leaving us later this summer.

In February the core group with some assistance from members of Riverside distributed 500 invitations to a Christianity Explored course. A number of conversations were had at people's doors as we invited them to explore Christianity by attending an eight week course. After the distribution was complete we had a sweet time of prayer, a potluck meal and fellowship. Though somewhat discouraged that no one contacted us as a result, we were grateful to be used by the Lord to invite people to consider learning about Jesus. Only God knows the true results. It is our desire to offer it again this fall in a very needy neighborhood near the downtown.

On April 1<sup>st</sup> a total of twenty-five people gathered for our first public worship service held at the local Lion's Hall. We were blessed to have Rev. Brian Murray lead that service where he preached on "Jesus' Encouragement to a Fledgling Ministry" from Jesus' words to his disciples in Luke 9. We were also encouraged to have elder Greig Park join us. Everyone stayed for a lunch, fellowship, sermon discussion, and a prayer time. We are now looking forward to our second public service on April 29 where Rudy de Vries will be leading the service.

Outreach Canada is helping us plan one service per month at this point. We are so grateful for the OC sub-committee consisting of Henry Bartsch, Greig Park, John Rood and Rudy de Vries which has assisted us with arranging pulpit supply and is helping to locate a church planter for this work.

We are looking forward to having URC candidate Iwan Baumann preach for us on June 10. He is a graduate of Westminster Seminary in California and is currently serving a six month internship at the URC in Thunder Bay. Preliminarily he has indicated that he would consider church planting in the ARP, i.e. he is not set exclusively on URC ministry.

Looking further ahead, we will lose most of our core group this year. The Highfill family is moving back to the US in late June. The small family and the single are moving on as well no

later than late August.

However, the Lord is encouraging us with the following new contacts:

- A young Reformed couple which lives in Kingston, one of whom attended our first service. They are formerly RPCNA but now attending Bath Road Baptist Church.
- A young Reformed man from QU with two more years of law school who has attended several times has indicated his desire to join us again when he returns in the fall. He is a member of a URC.
- Another young Reformed man who has contacted us and plans to move to Kingston in August for three years at QU law school. He is a member of the FRCNA.
- We just had another inquiry this week of someone moving to Kingston in the near future and looking for a Reformed Church.
- And of course, the de Vries family is staying put in Kingston.

We ask that you join us in prayer for the following:

1. Please continue to pray for our small group, that we would not grow discouraged when we lose many of our folks this year. Pray for gospel opportunities, for regular prayer, for God-glorifying worship and fellowship.
2. Pray for the Lord to be at work moving a few Reformed families to Kingston to strengthen our witness and fellowship.
3. Pray for the Lord to give us direction regarding a downtown witness.
4. Pray that the Lord would provide the man of his choosing to be the church planter here in this needy city.

We thank-you for your leadership, support, and prayers for this work.

In Christ,

Rudy de Vries

On behalf of the Kingston ARP Church Plant



## **Past Officers of the Canadian Presbytery**

### **2004-05**

Moderator: Rev. Dr. Jack C. Whytock

Vice-moderator: Rev. Rick Barnes

Stated Clerk: Bill McKay

Treasurer: Henry Brunsveld

### **2006-07**

Moderator: Rev. David Els

Vice-moderator: John Moerman

Stated Clerk: Bill McKay

Treasurer: Henry Brunsveld/  
Gary Armstrong

### **2008-09**

Moderator: Mike Flewelling

Vice-moderator: Rev. Jeff Kingswood

Stated Clerk: Bill McKay

Treasurer: Gary Armstrong

### **2010-11**

Moderator: Rev. Frank Z. Kovacs

Vice-moderator: Rev. David Els

Stated Clerk: Bill McKay

Treasurer: Gary Armstrong

### **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