

THE MINUTES OF THE **CANADIAN PRESBYTERY**

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

Stated Spring Meeting

April 25 - 26, 2013

Trinity ARP Church

Chatham, Ontario



Mr. Bill McKay
Stated Clerk

Rev. Kevin Carter
Moderator

OFFICERS OF THE CANADIAN PRESBYTERY

MODERATOR

(1 yr. Term expires June 30, 2013)

Rev. Kevin Carter

5 Minas Crescent
New Minas, NS
B4N 4H1

VICE MODERATOR

(1 yr. Term expires June 30, 2013)

Mr. John Moerman

13293 Klondyke Line/RR#1
Ridgetown, ON
N0P 2C0

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

Faith ARP Mission

TABLE OF CONTENTS

<u>CHURCH</u>	<u>MINISTER</u>	<u>RULING ELDER</u>
<u>Maritime Region</u>		
Grace Fellowship ARP	Rev. Rick Barnes	ABSENT
Covenant Reformed Presbyterian	Rev. John Shearouse	ABSENT
Covenanters ARP	Rev. Kevin Carter	Peter Lindsay
Mt. Zion ARP	ABSENT	ABSENT
Trinity Presbyterian Church	Vacant	Mike Flewelling
<u>Ontario Region</u>		
Reformed Hungarian ARP	Vacant	Frank Kovacs Sr.
Riverside ARP	Rev. Jerry Hamstra	Greig Park
Grace Presbyterian	Rev. Jeff Kingswood (Senior) Rev. Brian Murray (Associate)	Ken Turner
Faith ARP Mission	Rev. Stephen Richardson (Stated Supply)	ABSENT
Trinity ARP	Rev. Henry Bartsch	Henry Van Til
<u>Other Ministers of the Canadian Presbytery</u>	<u>Officers of the Court</u>	
Rev. Rudy de Vries		
Dr. William VanDoodewaard		

**MINUTES OF THE CANADIAN PRESBYTERY,
ASSOCIATE REFORMED PRESBYTERIAN CHURCHES IN CANADA,
ARP GENERAL SYNOD
STATED SPRING MEETING – April 25-26, 2013
Trinity ARP Church
Chatham, Ontario**

The 2013 Stated Spring Meeting of the Canadian Presbytery was held on April 25-26 2013 and hosted by the Trinity ARPC Congregation (Chatham, Ontario). The meetings were held at the Free Reformed Church in Chatham, ON. Sixteen (16) presbyters were in attendance for this meeting of presbytery.

Thursday – April 25, 2013

The delegates for presbytery gathered for the 2013 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 2013 Stated Spring Meeting

The Moderator of the Canadian Presbytery (2012/13), Rev. Kevin Carter, called the presbyters to order at 9:49 a.m. and convened the 2013 Stated Spring Meeting of the Canadian Presbytery. Rev. Carter constituted the meeting of the Canadian Presbytery as a court of the church of Jesus Christ, with prayer.

- **Motion:** To approve Rev. Brian Murray to act as the Clerk Pro Tem in the absence of the Stated Clerk, Bill McKay. **M/S/C**

Greetings from the Host Congregation

On behalf of the congregation of Trinity ARP Church, Rev. Henry Bartsch extended warmest greetings and salutations to the presbyters and guests of the Canadian Presbytery.

Calling of the Roll

The Interim Reading Clerk (Rev. Brian Murray) called the roll of presbyters for this stated meeting. The following members of the presbytery were in attendance.

<u>CHURCH</u>	<u>MINISTER</u>	<u>RULING ELDER</u>
<u>Maritime Region</u>		
Grace Fellowship ARP	Rev. Rick Barnes	ABSENT
Covenant Reformed Presbyterian	Rev. John Shearouse	ABSENT
Covenanters ARP	Rev. Kevin Carter	Peter Lindsay
Mt. Zion ARP	ABSENT	ABSENT
Trinity Presbyterian Church	Vacant	Mike Flewelling
<u>Ontario Region</u>		
Reformed Hungarian ARP	Vacant	Frank Kovacs Sr.
Riverside ARP	Rev. Jerry Hamstra	Greig Park
Grace Presbyterian	Rev. Jeff Kingswood (Senior) Rev. Brian Murray (Associate)	Ken Turner
Faith ARP Mission	Rev. Stephen Richardson (Stated Supply)	ABSENT
Trinity ARP	Rev. Henry Bartsch	Henry Van Til
<u>Other Ministers of the Canadian Presbytery</u>		<u>Officers of the Court</u>
Rev. Rudy de Vries		
Dr. William VanDoodewaard		

Bill McKay, Dr. Frank Kovacs, Andrew Savill and William Campbell were not present and sent their regrets regarding their absence from the 2013 Stated Spring Meeting.

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

The Clerk Pro Tem declared a quorum was present.

Introduction of Guests and Visitors

The following people were in attendance to these meetings: Rev. William Van Hal (URC), Rev. John Ferguson (OPC), Albert Gerrits, Andrew Gerrits, Jason Helopoulos and Adam Barr.

Greetings from Fraternal Delegates

- **Motion:** To grant “Privilege of the Floor” to Rev. John Ferguson (OPC) and Rev. William Van Hal (URC) so that they may bring greetings to the presbytery. **M/S/C**

Report of the Moderator (Rev. Kevin Carter)

1. Presentation and Approval of the Docket

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

2. Appointment of the Moderator’s Committees

Rev. Carter appointed Rev. Jeff Kingswood and Peter Lindsay to serve on the Moderator’s Committee for Excuses and Resolutions.

3. Procedure and Clarity of Motions

Rev. Carter took this time to present his thoughts and desire to see motions brought from the floor to be more thoroughly precise and written down when presented to the court to avoid confusion and unnecessary concerns after the fact.

Report of the Stated Clerk (Rev. Brian Murray)

1. Approval of the Minutes of Presbytery

- **Motion:** To approve the Minutes of Presbytery for the September 27-28, 2012 Stated Fall Meeting (as distributed). **M/S/C**

2. Report on meeting of the Executive Council (See Appendix 1)

a) The Executive Council met by teleconference at a Called Meeting on January 3, 2013 as a response to a request from Rev. Henry Bartsch and Outreach Canada asking for clarification and direction on the task they were given in September 2012 to develop a concrete standard for the evaluation of the program of the work in Kingston. After some discussion, the Executive Council’s response to Outreach Canada is as follows:

The mandate of the original motion is still in effect and Outreach should follow that motion under two points:

- 1) Develop a quantifiable plan for the future viability of the plant (what indicates the point where we no longer consider the church plant in Kingston as being viable and when do we end support).*
- 2) Continue a search for a church planter.*

3. Report on Correspondence Received

a) Correspondence with Dr. Jay Adams

Rev. John Shearouse reported on his correspondence (on behalf of the Canadian Presbytery) with Dr. Jay Adams regarding serious concerns over his perspective regarding the celebration and keeping of the Lord's Day that Dr. Adams has expressed in his book *"Keeping the Sabbath Today?"*

b) Catawba Presbytery

The Canadian Presbytery has received a letter from Catawba Presbytery informing us of a minister (Peter G. Rambo Sr.) who has been released from his ordination vows and ties to their presbytery on theological grounds and irreconcilable differences with the Standards of the ARP. We have been requested by Catawba Presbytery to not allow Mr. Rambo to teach or preach in any ARP congregations.

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

The presbytery recessed for Standing Committee Meetings and Lunch.

The presbytery observed the Order of the Day at 2:00 p.m.

DISCUSSION ON "The Gospel and Sexual Orientation"

A motion had been presented from the floor of the 2012 Stated Fall Meeting as follows:

"Motion: *That the book "The Gospel and Sexual Orientation" (a report of the 2011 Synod of the RPCNA) be distributed to and read by the presbyters of the Canada ARP for discussion at the Spring 2013 presbytery meeting with a view to commending it for study to the Theological and Social Concerns Committee for consideration for adoption as an ARP Synod position paper.*
M/S/C"

As a result, a discussion on this book followed.

- **Motion:** That the book "The Gospel and Sexual Orientation" (a report of the 2011 Synod of the RPCNA) be commended to the Theological and Social Concerns Committee for consideration for adoption as an ARP Synod position paper. M/S/C

COMMITTEE REPORTS

BOARD OF DIRECTORS/STEWARDSHIP (Rev. John Shearouse)

1. Treasurer's Report 2012 (See Appendix 2 & 3)

The Financial Report for 2012 (year-end) and the Financial Report for 2013 (to March 31, 2013) was presented for information only.

- **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. Report on ARP Women's Ministry

Rev. John Shearouse read a letter from Jennifer Hovestadt updating the Presbytery regarding

Women's Ministry in Canada. **(See Appendix 4)**

4. **Review of Annual Statistical Forms 2012**

The Statistical reports were reviewed and accepted. Sessions are encouraged to ensure the timely submission of these reports. The clerk reported that even though it is requested to have the reports completed and submitted by February 1 of each year, the majority of the reports do not show up until April 1 and then only at the urging of the clerk as he has to assemble the reports to be sent to the various committees for their inspection. The clerk respectfully requests that the sessions please be diligent in filling out these reports and submit them as soon as it is possible in order to facilitate this task. The clerk also notes that the sessions need to ensure that a copy of both the Annual Statistical Report and the Annual Presbytery Report are sent to him in a timely fashion.

5. **Session Minutes to be Examined**

The 2012 Session Minutes from Grace Presbyterian Church, Trinity ARP Church, Riverside ARP Church, Reformed Hungarian ARP Church and Faith ARP Mission were received and examined according to the Form of Government.

- **Motion:** to receive and approve the minutes from Grace Presbyterian Church, Riverside ARP Church, Trinity ARP Church, Reformed Hungarian ARP Church and Faith ARP Church. **M/S/C**

6. **Rev. Stephen Richardson**

- **Motion:** That the balance of Rev. Stephen Richardson's out of pocket expenses of \$174.00 incurred at a January church planting course be reimbursed to him. **M/S/C**

7. **Corporation Guidelines Change**

- **Motion:** That the Presbytery ask Gary Armstrong and/or Bill McKay to begin the process of changing the guidelines as required by Industry Canada for Federal not for Profit Corporations. **M/S/C**

8. **Kingston Church Planter**

- **Motion:** To provide up to \$2000.00 in funding to aid in the expense of finding and evaluating a potential church planter for the Kingston area; and further the funds are to be taken from the Canadian Presbyteries General expense fund. **M/S/C**

9. **Hungarian Reformed Congregation Building**

- **Motion:** To approve the Hungarian Reformed congregation's purchase of a church building as well as the arrangements made to finance the purchase. **M/S/C**
- **Motion:** To adopt the report as a whole. **M/S/C**

OUTREACH CANADA (Rev. Rick Barnes)

1. **Kingston, ON Church Plant**

- **Motion:** That the Presbytery commit to a two year time period to actively seek a church planter for Kingston. **M/S/C**
- **Motion:** That the Presbytery provide up to \$2000.00 to aid in the expense of finding a church planter for Kingston. **M/S/C**

- **Motion:** That the viability document pertaining to Kingston be adopted. **M/S/C**

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

Rev. Henry Bartsch gave an update on Faith ARP Mission in Tillsonburg, ON. He reported that the average attendance in the morning service was 20-25 persons and 18-20 in the afternoon service. Rev. Richardson has been directed to attend a church planter's training seminar and the ARP Assessment Centre.

- **Motion:** That funding is to be requested from ONA pending Steve Richardson's approval at the Assessment Center. **M/S/C**

Rev. Henry Bartsch has also been asked to serve on the search committee for a new ONA director.

3. **Rev. Rudy de Vries ministerial update**

Rev. Rudy de Vries gave an update regarding his health and ministry. **(See Appendix 6)**

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

RECESS

At 3:30 p.m. Rev. Carter declared a recess for this session of presbytery. The presbytery assembled for a time of prayer.

DINNER

At 5:00 pm the presbytery met for dinner.

Service of Worship

The presbyters and friends of the Canadian Presbytery gathered together again at 7:30 p.m. (April 25, 2013), for a service of worship. Rev. Stephen Richardson presided over the service and Rev. John Shearouse presented God's Word to the congregation. He preached from Psalm 23. Twenty-five (25) persons shared the Table of the Lord's Supper. A time of fellowship followed the worship service.

Friday, April 26, 2013

At 8:30 a.m., the Presbytery gathered in the sanctuary for worship. Rev. Henry Bartsch presided at this service and led the presbytery in prayer and worship. Rev. Rick Barnes brought the Word of God to the presbytery as he preached from 2 Timothy 2:1-13.

Presbytery Re-Convenes

At 9:45 a.m., following the worship service, Rev. Carter called the presbytery to order and re-convened the 2013 Stated Spring Meeting of the Canadian Presbytery with prayer.

Calling of the Roll

The clerk "pro tem" declared a quorum was present.

Introduction of Guests and Visitors

There were no new introductions for today.

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

1. Moderator

- **Motion:** That Rev. John Shearouse (Covenant Reformed Presbyterian Church) is accepted by acclamation to the office of Moderator of the Canadian Presbytery for 2013/14. **M/S/C**

2. Vice-moderator

Rev. John Shearouse put forward the name of David Alexander to serve as Vice-Moderator of the Canadian Presbytery for 2013/14.

- **Motion:** To confirm David Alexander as Vice-Moderator of the Canadian Presbytery for 2013/14. **M/S/C**

3. Stated Clerk

- **Motion:** To approve Bill McKay to serve as the Stated Clerk of the Canadian Presbytery for 2013-2016. **M/S/C**

4. Reading Clerk

- **Motion:** To approve Rev. Brian Murray to serve as the Reading Clerk of the Canadian Presbytery for 2013-2016. **M/S/C**

5. Treasurer

- **Motion:** To approve Mr. Gary Armstrong to serve as the Treasurer of the Canadian Presbytery for 2010-2013. **M/S/C**

6. Standing Committees

A reminder that the Standing Committees of the Canadian Presbytery (having been restructured as of January 1, 2013) will be in effect until June 30, 2014.

7. Synod Committees

Nominations were requested for the Synod committees of Dunlop Orphanage and Worship. No names were produced.

8. Report on vacant churches

- Frank Kovacs Sr. gave an update on the current situation at Reformed Hungarian ARP Church.
- Mike Flewelling gave an update on the situation with Trinity Presbyterian Church (Woodstock, NB).

9. Report on Student Dr. Russ Kosits

A letter from Dr. Russell Kosits with a request that he be released from his position as a Student of Theology under care of the presbytery was read to the Presbytery. His primary reason is that he has been finding the seminary course work (particularly through RTS-Virtual) as being unsustainable at this time in his life considering his current obligations and goals. As well he is questioning the importance of ordination to non-theological disciplines (after consultation with others).

- **Motion:** That Dr. Russell Kosits' request to be released from his status as a Student of Theology under care of the Canadian Presbytery be granted; and further, that he be removed from roll of Student of Theology of the Canadian Presbytery. **M/S/C**

10. Reports from Ministers serving out of bounds

- Rev. Frank Kovacs: a letter sent by Rev. Kovacs was read to the Presbytery. Prayer was offered on behalf of Rev. Kovacs.
- Dr. Bill VanDoodewaard: Dr. VanDoodewaard gave an oral report to the Presbytery. Prayer was offered for Dr. VanDoodewaard.

11. Review of Annual Statistical Reports for 2012

The Annual Statistical reports were reviewed and accepted.

12. Rewrite of the examination process in the Canadian Presbytery

A motion from the 2012 Stated Fall Presbytery Meeting is as follows:

"That the M&W committee seek to solidify and improve the examination process in the Canadian Presbytery and report back to Presbytery at our spring meeting."

The Minister & His Work Committee makes the following recommendations:

Recommendation #1: That Presbytery accept the revised Student Exam Study Guide. (see final motion)

Recommendations #2: That the following procedure be adopted

- a. For students seeking ordination:
 - 1. That a written exam, based on the study guide, be administered to students
 - 2. That students be examined on the floor of Presbytery,
 - 3. That students preach three sermons for Presbytery during their time under care
- b. That ministers transferring in from NAPARC denominations preach for Presbytery and be examined on the floor of Presbytery on theology, polity, pastoral care and personal life and ARP history.
- c. That ministers transferring in from non-NAPARC denominations be examined using the process for students unless waived by Presbytery.
- **Motion**: That the examination process be referred back to the committee with the deadline for Sessional input being May 31, 2013. **M/S/C**
- **Motion**: To adopt the report 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:

Bill McKay, Rev. William Campbell, Rev. Andrew Savill and Dr. Frank Kovacs.

Additionally, Rev.'s Murray and Kingswood, along with elder Mike Flewelling, asked to be excused from the afternoon and evening session on Thursday in order to attend the graduation service for Gillespie Academy in Woodstock.

2. Resolutions

The following motion from the Excuses and Resolutions Committee:

- **Motion**: *Be it resolved that the Canadian Presbytery extends its heartfelt thanks to the congregation of Trinity ARP in Chatham for the gracious and abundant hospitality that has*

been shown to us during our meetings and in the homes of its members. We are also grateful for the young people of Trinity for their assistance in serving our food and refreshments. One of the chief blessings of Presbytery meetings is the opportunity to get to know our congregations in this way and we are delighted to know you better. We pray for the Lord's blessing on you as you live and work as the body of Christ in Chatham and area.

Thank you also to the Free Reformed Church for the use of their facilities. M/S/C

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

- **Motion:** That thanks also be extended to the Free Reformed Church of Chatham for the use of their facilities. M/S/C
- **Motion:** To adopt the report as a whole. M/S/C

New Business

There was no new business.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS

1. Follow up with Dr. Jay Adams

- **Motion:** Whereas Dr. Jay Adams' book entitled "*Keeping the Sabbath Today?*" is contrary to our Confessional Standards, we (the Canadian Presbytery) inquire as to what action Second Presbytery has taken, or intends to take with regard to this matter. M/S/C
- **Motion:** That exceptions to the Standards of the ARP Church taken by ministers, and granted by Presbytery, be recorded in the minutes of presbytery. M/S/C

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

September 26-27, 2013: Covenant Reformed Presbyterian Church, Halifax, NS

April 24-25, 2014: Grace Presbyterian Church, Woodstock, ON

ADJOURNMENT/ ANNOUNCEMENTS – CLOSING PRAYER AND BENEDICTION

Rev. Kevin Carter prayed and gave the benediction. The court adjourned at 11:25 a.m. with the singing of Psalm 133.

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

Respectfully submitted and attested by:

Mr. Bill McKay
Stated Clerk

Rev. Kevin Carter
Moderator

APPENDIX 1 (April/13)

**MINUTES OF THE EXECUTIVE COUNCIL
CANADIAN PRESBYTERY, ARPC
January 3, 2013, 9:30 a.m. (EST)
Teleconference Meeting**

A meeting of the Executive Council of the Canadian Presbytery was called on January 3, 2013, by teleconference. Seven persons were in attendance for this meeting of presbytery.

Executive Council

At 9:30 a.m. (E.S.T.), Rev. Kevin Carter called the presbyters to order and convened the Teleconference Meeting of the Executive Council of the Canadian Presbytery. Rev. Carter constituted the meeting by opening with prayer and a reading of Scripture from Exodus 33: 14-17.

Calling of the Roll

The Stated Clerk, Mr. Bill McKay, called the roll of presbyters for this meeting.

Roll of the Executive Council:

Rick Barnes
John Shearouse
Kevin Carter
Bill VanDoodewaard
Mr. John Moerman
Mr. Bill McKay

The Stated Clerk declared a quorum was present.

As the outgoing chairman of the Outreach Canada Committee, Rev. Henry Bartsch was invited to be involved with this meeting.

Outreach Canada

Outreach Canada has requested a meeting to give clarification to the motion from the 2012 Stated Fall Meeting of the Canadian Presbytery as to how the committee should deal with the Kingston Church Plant situation.

The original motion is as follows:

- **Motion:** That we ask Outreach Canada to come back to the April Presbytery with a concrete standard for the evaluation of the progress of the work in Kingston. **M/S/C**

Rev. Bartsch explained that when the original motion supporting the planting of a church in Kingston, presbytery was operating under the assumption that the plant was approved as a “half parachute drop”, in that there was a very small core group and would need a church planter to facilitate growth. He explained that the committee had laid the ground work to be accomplished in four stages:

- 1) Exploratory (this has been completed)

- 2) Planting (present stage where they actively search for a church planter to continue the work)
- 3) Growth
- 4) Reproductive

Rev. Bartsch pointed out that there was debate at the last presbytery meeting as to direction to move and some confusion as to what was happening. The question the committee is wrestling with is whether the new motion from the Fall meeting of presbytery is in contradiction with the original motion to move ahead with the church plant. There is concern on the committee about whether presbytery is now uncertain about pursuing a church plant in Kingston. They believe they have three questions before them to consider:

- 1) Is the committee empowered to continue with Stage 2 (searching for a church planter) under the mandate of the original motion of support?
- 2) Does the presbytery want the committee to examine the church plant for viability to the exclusion of continuing with the mandate of the original motion?
- 3) Does the presbytery desire that the committee examine the church plant for viability as well as continuing with the mandate of the original motion?

After some discussion, the Executive Council's response to Outreach Canada is as follows:

The mandate of the original motion is still in effect and Outreach should follow that motion under two points:

- 3) Develop a quantifiable plan for the future viability of the plant (what indicates the point where we no longer consider the church plant in Kingston as being viable and when do we end support).
- 4) Continue a search for a church planter.

Rev. Rick Barnes (the new chairman of Outreach Canada) indicated he will be in discussion with Alan Avera of Outreach North America as to how to proceed from here.

- **Motion:** To adjourn the meeting. **M/S/C**
- **The meeting closed with prayer by Dr. Bill VanDoodewaard.**

Respectfully submitted by:

Attest:

Bill McKay
Stated Clerk

Rev. Kevin Carter
Moderator

APPENDIX 2 (April/13)**Associate Reformed Presbyterian Churches
in Canada****Treasurer's Report****for the period ending December 31, 2012**

	Expense Fund	Denominational Ministry Fund	Canadian Church Development Trust	Total All Funds 2012	Total All Funds 2011
<u>RECEIPTS</u>	<u>Actual</u>	<u>Actual</u>	<u>Actual</u>		
Covenant Reformed	\$ 800.00	\$ 400.00	\$ 500.00	\$ 1,700.00	\$ 2,200.00
Covenanters	-	-	-	-	600.00
Grace Fellowship, NS	1,200.00	1,000.00	750.00	2,950.00	3,200.00
Grace Presbyterian, ON	3,000.00	1,000.00	2,759.49	6,759.49	7,865.70
Mount Zion	-	-	-	-	-
Reformed Hungarian	200.00	50.00	500.00	750.00	750.00
Riverside	1,500.00	150.00	31,985.65	33,635.65	1,650.00
Trinity Chatham, ON	1,000.00	200.00	1,000.00	2,200.00	2,200.00
Trinity Woodstock, NB	200.00	200.00	1,800.00	2,200.00	2,200.00
Interest	959.68	-	-	959.68	-
TOTAL RECEIPTS	8,859.68	3,000.00	39,295.14	51,154.82	20,665.70
<u>DISBURSEMENTS</u>	<u>Budget</u>	<u>Budget</u>	<u>Budget</u>		
Church plants - Kingston	-	-	5,148.82	5,148.82	-
Church plants - Tillsonburg	-	-	10,431.17	10,431.17	-
Supplement paid for Iranian supplies	-	-	-	-	-
Computer	-	-	-	-	-
Travel	152.68	3,000.00	-	152.68	800.35
Moderator/Clerk Travel	799.84	2,000.00	-	799.84	-
Telephone, teleconference calls	646.70	500.00	-	646.70	382.57
Treasurer's Work, Postage, Bank Chgs, Office	116.16	750.00	-	116.16	255.44
Student Bursaries & Expenses	-	4,000.00	-	-	-
Internship	-	-	-	-	24,000.00
Miscellaneous	-	-	-	-	-
TOTAL DISBURSEMENTS	1,715.38	10,250.00	15,579.99	17,295.37	25,438.36
Excess - Receipts over Disbursements	7,144.30	\$ (10,250.00)	\$ -	33,859.45	(4,772.66)
Bank and Investments - January 1	10,143.05	32,971.16	133,831.00	176,945.21	181,717.87
Bank and Investments - December 31	\$ 17,287.35	\$ 35,971.16	\$ 157,546.15	\$ 210,804.66	\$ 176,945.21
<u>Represented by:</u>					
Bank Balance				\$ 67,737.62	\$ 34,837.85
Investment Certificates				143,067.04	142,107.36
Total Funds				\$ 210,804.66	\$ 176,945.21

APPENDIX 3 (April/13)

Associate Reformed Presbyterian Churches in Canada Treasurer's Report for the period ending March 31, 2013							
	Expense Fund	Denominational Ministry Fund	Canadian Church Development Trust	Total All Funds 2013	Total All Funds 2012		
RECEIPTS	Actual	Actual	Actual				
Covenant Reformed	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 1,700.00		
Covenanters	500.00	100.00	1,200.00	1,800.00	-		
Grace Fellowship, NS	600.00	250.00	250.00	1,100.00	2,950.00		
Grace Presbyterian, ON	-	-	-	-	6,759.49		
Mount Zion	336.91	-	-	336.91	-		
Reformed Hungarian	-	-	-	-	750.00		
Riverside	1,500.00	150.00	1,398.00	3,048.00	33,635.65		
Trinity Chatham, ON	1,000.00	200.00	1,000.00	2,200.00	2,200.00		
Trinity Woodstock, NB	-	-	-	-	2,200.00		
Interest	-	-	-	-	959.68		
TOTAL RECEIPTS	3,936.91	700.00	3,848.00	8,484.91	51,154.82		
DISBURSEMENTS	Budget	Budget	Budget				
Church plants - Kingston	-	-	-	7,500.00	-	5,148.82	
Church plants - Tillsonburg	-	-	20,000.00	55,000.00	20,000.00	10,431.17	
Computer	-	-	-	-	-	-	
Travel	-	3,000.00	-	-	-	152.68	
Moderator/Clerk Travel	-	2,000.00	-	-	-	799.84	
Telephone, teleconference calls	-	500.00	-	-	-	646.70	
Treasurer's Work, Postage, Bank Chgs, Office	-	750.00	-	-	-	116.16	
Student Bursaries & Expenses	-	4,000.00	-	-	-	-	
Internship	-	-	-	-	-	-	
Miscellaneous	-	-	-	-	-	-	
TOTAL DISBURSEMENTS	-	10,250.00	-	20,000.00	62,500.00	17,295.37	
Excess - Receipts over Disbursements	3,936.91	\$ (10,250.00)	700.00	(16,152.00)	\$ (62,500.00)	(11,515.09)	33,859.45
Bank and Investments - January 1	17,287.35	35,971.16	157,546.15	210,804.66	176,945.21		
Bank and Investments - December 31	\$ 21,224.26	\$ 36,671.16	\$ 141,394.15	\$ 199,289.57	\$ 210,804.66		
Represented by:							
Bank Balance				\$ 56,222.52	\$ 67,737.62		
Investment Certificates				143,067.05	143,067.04		
Total Funds				\$ 199,289.57	\$ 210,804.66		

APPENDIX 4 (April/13)

**Women's Ministry Report to the Congregational Life Committee
Spring Presbytery Meeting
April 25, 2013**

Over the past year I have worked with the ladies from Riverside ARP in Cambridge as they planned the Ontario ARP Ladies' Retreat. Missy Kosits, Ranya Bailey and Betty Ann Korvemaker spoke on the theme The Attributes of God, focusing on Unity, Mercy and Power. There were about 60 women from Tillsonburg, Chatham, Woodstock, Kingston and Cambridge in attendance. It was a wonderful weekend where we were again challenged to live lives that reflect who God is. We were reminded of exactly who he is in the attributes discussed. It was wonderful to have a few of the ladies from Kingston and Tillsonburg there as well. In talking with the ladies who do attend the reoccurring comments are how much they enjoy learning and growing as we meet together year after year and how friendships have grown between ladies that they might not have known before.

The ladies from Trinity ARP in Chatham will be hosting the retreat next year and have already had their first meeting. Because of the distance to come to Chatham, I hope to Skype in for their planning meetings. It has gone very well to be a part of the planning committee, in keeping some continuity, to be there to answer questions and to make sure that the speakers/questions/ discussion groups go well. There was some talk of continuing with the theme of The Attributes of God, as this will put our focus on Christ and not necessarily on ourselves.

In July I hope to attend the Women's Ministry Annual meeting at Bon Clarcken. It has been a few years since I met in person with the ladies there (I have just been Skyping into meetings) and I look forward to meeting with the ladies in person. While there I will have a table set up on the Tuesday afternoon in a round robin setting. All the churches and organizations have tables set up giving information about what is going on throughout the year. I am hoping that there will be a few other ladies from the Canadian churches there as well (though holiday schedules need to be worked out still).

This weekend there is a board meeting being held at Bon Clarcken and I have just submitted a written report giving details about our retreat. One thing that seems to keep coming up is the 'odd' relationship that I have with the pastor's and elders here in Canada. The ladies often comment on how strange it is that the leaders of the church actually get back to me when I ask them something. Over the years I have repeated the chorus of "Ask the leaders of the church. We are under their umbrella of protection. Talk to the leaders" and I am very thankful for the care shown by the Canadian pastors here. It has been a blessing to be able to serve the churches in this way and to have your support in that as well.

The Spring issue of the ARP is here for you to take back to your churches. The feedback from previous issues has been very positive as far as making folks aware of some of the different needs in the churches and giving practical help for supporting and encouraging the folks in those situations.

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

Respectfully Submitted
Jennifer Hovestadt

APPENDIX 5 (April/13)

Faith Presbyterian Church Plant

Tillsonburg, Ontario

April 24, 2013

To Members of the Canadian Presbytery
Re: Report from Trinity ARP Mission (Chatham, ON)

Greetings in the name of Jesus Christ our Lord. The Provisional Session of Faith Presbyterian Church, Tillsonburg submits this report with thankfulness to God for his kind blessing upon the work of this mission.

Our report is presented in two parts. Part one deals with the church plant itself. Part two deals with Rev. Richardson's work in the plant as stated supply.

Part 1: Faith Church Plant

First: the numbers. We are encouraged by the number of people attending worship and the number of regular visitors that come. The average attendance at the 10:00 am service is 20-25. The average attendance at the 3:00 pm service is 18-20. The average offering amount is \$ 300.00 a Sunday. Our operating expenses are high and we need to address this. See attached financial report.

Second: the Provisional Session. We meet once a month meeting person to person one month and via Skype the other. Ken Turner is our clerk...he does an excellent job. We have set up a visitation schedule where once a month an elder together with Steve visits a family in the church.

Third: the organization. Coming into the work the session realized that much of the practical organizational needs needed to be put in place. Therefore session...

- Assigned counting officers and are in the process of establishing a treasurer.
- Applied to the government for official charitable status. The status application is complete.
- Gave permission to set up an internet and phone account.
- Began exploring banking options.
- Discussed Nursery care.

Fourth: the vision and mission of faith is being worked out. The core group at Faith has not fully discussed or adopted a vision or mission statement. Faith's members adhere to our Standards, yet they have not together worked out what the vision and mission for a Reformed Church in Tillsonburg would be. In light of this Session has purposed to hold 3 congregational meetings with the core group to discuss vision and mission and together work on and adopt concise statements. We held our first meeting on April 12.

Fifth: evangelism. We have adopted a lengthy brochure introducing the church to the community. It has been handed out. We have put one add into the paper introducing the church and inviting people to come and visit. Steve has been doing work in evangelism as well. Currently, he is working with men in a mission.

Sixth: worship. The Communion of the Lord's Supper is observed every other month. At this juncture a musical instrument is played every other week. Both Psalms and Hymns from the Trinity Hymnal are sung. The building is not the most conducive to worship. Session has discussed looking else where for a more comfortable facility.

Note: At this time at Faith there are a number of people who hold to the position of no instruments in worship. When this Provisional Session began its work the current practice of Faith was no instruments every other week. We so far have maintained this practice. Currently we are dealing with this subject.

Seventh: The people. The membership of Faith is made up mostly of young families. They desire to hear the faithful preaching of the Word and seek to worship in a church which strives to be faithful to Scripture. All but 3 souls come from non Reformed churches. Therefore, the people need much teaching on the work and authority of the church. The people also need to be disciplined in child-rearing and marriage. There is one man who has potential for leadership.

Part 2: Rev. Steve Richardson

As you know Rev. Steve Richardson was placed at Faith as stated supply for a year “and be mentored by the provisional session as he continues to work through theological issues and ministry practices pending his acceptance.”¹ To provide this mentoring Faith Session has implemented these measures. **1)** Session regularly debriefs with Steve on his growth and development. **2)** Rev. Henry Bartsch meets with Steve once a month (as schedules allow), and keeps in phone contact to provide one on one help. **3)** We have directed Steve to attend a church planters training seminar and the ARP Assessment Centre. The church planting course requirement has been completed and he is going to the assessment centre in a few weeks.

Specifically we are providing oversight and mentorship to Steve in these areas.

- **His preaching.** Steve is currently preaching through Romans and James. We have directed him to do a series on the family. He has done so. We have encouraged him to develop wisdom in applying the Scriptures to the people’s lives and he has sought to do so. Steve is Christ centered in his preaching and theologically sound.
- **His organizational skills.** We have directed Steve to certain books and methods to help him use his time and energies better. He has implanted a number of things to help him in this.
- **His church polity.** Henry Bartsch is mentoring Steve in the responsibilities and work of a local session from our FOG. We particular focus on the role of the moderator.
- **His views on worship.** Steve does take the view of no instruments in public worship. The current session members do not hold to this view, but we realize this is a practice by some. Thus in freeness and cordiality we are discussing this issue with him and its ramifications on the church plant etc. Steve is very conciliatory and not wanting this issue to be divisive.
- **His family.** Steve and Erin have 3 children and have a strong marriage. Steve is diligently seeking to provide godly leadership in his home. We can see the fruit of this.

In conclusion there is much foundational work to do at Faith. The subject of the style of worship, leadership, a proper financial set up, and helping the young families have strong Christian homes are the urgent projects to work on.

Thank you for your interest in this work. Continue to pray for us so that we might see many people come to join us in declaring Christ to be King.

Henry Bartsch
On behalf of Provisional Session

¹ Minutes of the Canadian Presbytery Meeting: September 27-28, 2012.

APPENDIX 6 (April/13)

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

For the period of October 1, 2012 to April 24, 2013
Prepared for the Outreach Canada Committee of the Canadian Presbytery
April 25-26, 2013, Chatham, ON

Health Update

Thank you brothers for your prayers and support during these challenging months. It gives me great pleasure to tell you that my health continues to be stable though it seems to have peaked at a high of 272,000 last November. Since then it has averaged around 200,000 which is still within the normal range. To summarize, my ITP is currently in a kind of "remission" and I have not had any bleeding or bruising symptoms since last August. The accompanying fatigue is far less and is manageable now. I thank the Lord for this mercy!

Since ITP is incurable (by man) I will most likely live with it for the rest of my earthly life – healing will come someday though! Having discovered how serious the effects of ITP are to my life and to the life of my family I take this very seriously and yet I am confident that if the Lord wills I will never suffer low platelets again. However, I continue to work on pursuing necessary steps to prevent a relapse, if the Lord wills.

Due to my limitations during this process, Kathy took on additional responsibilities in our home. In addition to her extra workload and responsibilities, she also experienced many uncertainties about the future. I am so thankful for the way she helped me rest and recover. Today Kathy and I are able to say that this experience has built us up in our faith and confidence in the Lord and in his ways as well as showing us our great dependence upon him. I am also thankful for the way the RPM Board of Directors gave me freedom from my work obligations in order to focus on getting better. They were committed to keeping me at full pay while I was ill.

Perhaps the greatest lesson that I have learned is that I am dispensable, that is, the Lord doesn't first and foremost need my strength to accomplish his purposes, but he foremost seeks my trust in him and my confidence in his love to me in Christ. As the Psalmist declares in Ps 147:9-11, *"He gives to the beasts their food, and to the young ravens that cry. ¹⁰ His delight is not in the strength of the horse, nor his pleasure in the legs of a man, ¹¹ but the LORD takes pleasure in those who fear him, in those who hope in his steadfast love.*

Ministry Update

I have returned to work incrementally. To date I have returned to five of the seven prisons where I had been ministering up until becoming ill last May. As you may know already, Kingston Penitentiary is closing this fall and their inmate population has decreased substantially already. Millhaven Institution used to house the Assessment (Intake) Unit but it is now becoming the new "KP" (maximum security prison) and the AU has moved to Joyceville Institution. Once the dust settles at Millhaven I intend to seek a regular ministry there as well.

One thing that I was mostly able to continue was escorting inmates to church on Sundays. The Lord graciously enabled me to continue this, in part I think, for my own encouragement. By his grace it was also instrumental in the lives of several inmates who have evidently grown in the grace and knowledge of Christ. One of those men is Patrick who is now in a half-way house in the Toronto area. He is joyfully serving the Lord Christ in his family and in a full-time job. I speak with him regularly. In the next RPM newsletter I tell Patrick's story.

A recent and huge blessing has been the ability to return to the prison pulpit at Frontenac and Bath Institutions. It is an unspeakable joy for me to preach Christ to the inmates. There really is a dearth of that in the prisons today. Please pray for our leaders as they slowly revamp Chaplaincy services provided to inmates. Dozens of minority faith Chaplains have already lost their contracts, remaining full-time Chaplains are feeling stressed, and CSC plans to change the interview and hiring process for Chaplains. One of the side-effects may be that organizations like RPM may be able to play a larger role in the future. Pray that all of this will redound for the glory of God.

Hopefully my next report will look like a normal report again, now that I am getting back to full-time ministry.

Past Officers of the Canadian Presbytery

2004-05

Moderator: Rev. Dr. Jack C. Whytock

Vice-moderator: Rev. Rick Barnes

Stated Clerk: Bill McKay

Treasurer: Henry Brunsveld

2006-07

Moderator: Rev. David Els

Vice-moderator: John Moerman

Stated Clerk: Bill McKay

Treasurer: Henry Brunsveld/
Gary Armstrong

2008-09

Moderator: Mike Flewelling

Vice-moderator: Rev. Jeff Kingswood

Stated Clerk: Bill McKay

Treasurer: Gary Armstrong

2010-11

Moderator: Rev. Frank Z. Kovacs

Vice-moderator: Rev. David Els

Stated Clerk: Bill McKay

Treasurer: Gary Armstrong

2012-13

Moderator: Rev. Kevin Carter

Vice-moderator: John Moerman

Stated Clerk: Bill McKay

Treasurer: Gary Armstrong

2005-06

Moderator: Ken Turner

Vice-moderator: Rev. Frank Kovacs

Stated Clerk: Bill McKay

Treasurer: Henry Brunsveld

2007-08

Moderator: Rev. John van Eyk

Vice-moderator: Rev. Brian Murray

Stated Clerk: Bill McKay

Treasurer: Gary Armstrong

2009-10

Moderator: Rev. Brian Murray

Vice-moderator: Rev. Kevin Carter

Stated Clerk: Bill McKay

Treasurer: Gary Armstrong

2011-12

Moderator: Kevin Bigney

Vice-moderator: Rev. John Shearouse

Stated Clerk: Bill McKay

Treasurer: Gary Armstrong