

Hi-Lights of 2021 Stated Spring Meeting of the Canadian Presbytery

- The Canadian Presbytery convened as a Court of the Church from April 7-9, 2021. Due to the Covid-19 restrictions in place, the meeting was conducted primarily by ZOOM teleconference.
- Rev. Jonathan Cowan (Trinity ARP) moderated the meeting. Twenty-three (23) presbyters were in attendance.
- Reports were presented on the Students Under Care – Tim Collins (Gillespie Divinity School/GDS), David Chi (GPTS), Randy Lieuwen (GDS), Jordan VanAmerongen, Jason Tucker (GDS) and John Nymann (GDS). The presbytery now has 6 Students Under Care.
- Student Tim Collins was sustained in his examination for Licensure and was received as a Licentiate of the Canadian Presbytery.
- Rev. Curt Van Dyken was sustained in his examination on the floor of presbytery and then was approved to have his ministerial credentials received to become a member of the court of the Canadian Presbytery.
- A report was presented by a commission of the presbytery which heard the “middler sermon” of student Randy Lieuwen in November 2020 at Grace Presbyterian Church (Woodstock, ON).
- Rev. Kevin Carter gave an update on the work of Hope ARP Mission in Kingston, ON. Kevin is very thankful for the ongoing support shown to his small congregation from the presbytery.
- A report was received on the beginning work of Windsor Reformed Fellowship (Windsor, ON). This is a cooperative church planting effort between Trinity ARP (Chatham, ON) and the Canadian Presbytery. A motion was approved to extend the pastoral call of Rev. Jonathan Cowan to December 1, 2022.
- The Erskine ARP preaching point begun by Covenant Reformed Presbyterian Church in Glenholme, NS (outside of Truro, NS) has been ongoing for several months with good response from that local community. Covenant Reformed also acknowledged that they have been able to use that building for their own worship during the Covid-19 restrictions as they were not able to use their building in Halifax, NS for a period of time.
- Trinity Presbyterian Mission (Woodstock, NB) is continuing with live pulpit supply once per month from Rev. Michael Jaatinen (Mt. Zion ARP), Rev. Richard Vander Vaart (twice per month) and an elder from Mt. Zion ARP. Numbers are steady and the finances are in good shape. The remaining congregants are united in their desire to see the church remain.
- Reports were presented from Bill and Janet McKay regarding the mission work at Christian Hospital Sahiwal, Pakistan and on the current work of Tom and Sandra Van Maanen on the mission field in Malawi. The committee is working to develop a working agreement with Mission to the World (MTW - PCA) and Christ Church Malawi to assist in MTW church planting efforts in Malawi.
- Reports were presented from Rev. Rudy de Vries (Ontario Region) and Rev. Richard Vander Vaart (Maritime Region) on their work as Prison Evangelists with Redemption Prison Ministry.
- Reports were received from Dr. Frank Kovacs and Dr. Bill Van Doodewaard in their work teaching in seminaries.
- Reports were received from the congregations of Covenant Reformed Presbyterian (Halifax, NS)), Covenanters ARP (Cambridge, NS) and Mt. Zion ARP (Moncton, NB).
- Rev. Martin Dendekker (Covenanters ARP – Cambridge, NS) was elected as the Moderator and Mr. Jon Van Dyk (Riverside ARP Church – Cambridge, ON) was elected as the Vice-moderator for 2021/22. They will take office on July 1, 2021.
- The next scheduled meeting of the Canadian Presbytery is the 2021 Stated Fall Meeting scheduled for September 22-24, 2021 with the congregation of Covenanters ARP Church (Cambridge, NS) acting as hosts (D.V.).