

## **Hi-Lights of 2021 Stated Fall Meeting of the Canadian Presbytery**

- The Canadian Presbytery convened as a Court of the Church from September 22-24, 2021. It has been 2 years since the presbytery was last able to physically meet together in one place.
- Rev. Martin Dendekker (Covenanters ARP) moderated the meeting. Twenty-one (21) presbyters were in attendance.
- Students David Chi and Randy Lieuwen were sustained in their examinations for Licensure and were received as Licentiates of the Canadian Presbytery.
- Student John Nymann preached his “Middler” sermon towards Licensure.
- Mr. Micah Bartsch (Grace Presbyterian Church) was received as a Student of Theology.
- West River Road Reformed Church (Cambridge, ON) was approved to be received as a particular Church of the Canadian Presbytery in the coming months.
- The pastoral relationship between Rev. Henry Bartsch and Trinity ARP (Chatham, ON) was dissolved.
- Rev. Henry Bartsch was approved to be installed as the new Mission Developer at Faith ARP Mission (Tillsonburg, ON). Rev. Cowan’s pastoral call will be revised to add 13 months to its term and also for his main focus to be on the congregation of Trinity ARP during the time of searching for a new pastor.
- A proposal for Mr. Randy Lieuwen to possibly be called as an Evangelist to serve at the Windsor Reformed Fellowship exploratory work in Windsor, ON for 13 months, was approved.
- 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.
- Covenant Reformed has been using the Erskine ARP building at Glenholme, NS to help alleviate their numbers situation in Halifax due to Covid-19 restrictions.
- Trinity Presbyterian Mission (Woodstock, NB) is continuing well with increasing numbers and the finances are in good shape.
- 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. Randy and Allison Lieuwen are also still in the process of being accepted as possible missionaries with CPM.
- Presbytery approved of a “Joint Venture Intermediary Agreement” with the Christ Presbyterian Church group in Blantyre, Malawi to enable the presbytery to legally support international mission work financially with receipted funds.
- Presbytery approved a “Memorandum of Understanding” with the Nancy Fulwood Hospital Society (Christian Hospital Sahiwal) as the first step towards the possible implementation of a future “Joint Venture Agreement Intermediary Agreement” with the hospital in Sahiwal.
- 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 the particular congregations of Trinity ARP (Chatham, ON), Riverside ARP (Cambridge, ON) and Grace Presbyterian Church (Woodstock, ON).
- A motion was passed to appoint a Moderator’s committee to research and monitor the election promise of the Liberal Party of Canada in that if re-elected, they would “No longer provide charity status to anti-abortion organizations (for example, Crisis Pregnancy Centers) that provide dishonest counseling to women about their rights and about the options available to them at all stages of the pregnancy”. This committee will research ways in which churches in our Presbytery may begin to prepare to aid and encourage against any developing threat to the Canadian ARP churches in their continuing support for pro-life causes.
- The next scheduled meeting of the Canadian Presbytery is the 2021 Stated Fall Meeting scheduled for April 7-8, 2022 with the congregation of Hope ARP Mission (Kingston, ON) acting as hosts (D.V.).