

Renewal News!

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The Renewal Fellowship within The Presbyterian Church in Canada is a means to contact and encourage those concerned about the evangelical renewal of the PCC.

Our mission:
To lead each other and The Presbyterian Church in Canada to authentic Biblical thinking, powerful Spirit-led prayer and effective Gospel witness.

Our executive director is available to meet and speak ONLINE to congregations and groups weekdays or on Sundays.
Contact info Page 8.

The Renewal News is a quarterly publication of Renewal Fellowship.

We welcome your stories

United we stand

Like-minded Presbyterians gather for prayer, repentance

By Rev. Andy Cornell
Executive Director

Presbyterians who adhere to traditional standards are working together on two new fronts.

“Praying, listening, trusting” was formed in June 2020 for the purpose of praying for six months in order to discern God’s direction for those in orthodoxy. “PCC-Covenant” came together in the fall in recognition of a need to work with one another and the wider denomination “with integrity, humility, trust, grace and hope.”

Both movements have the active support of the Renewal Fellowship (RF) board of directors as well as Presbyterians Standing for Apostolic Love and Truth (PSALT) along with many others who are not connected to either group.



“Praying, listening, trusting” has held twice-monthly prayer meetings with a total of 25 people taking part at various times. PCC-Covenant attracted a combined 140 registrants for its two initial gatherings on Nov. 14 and 16.

Neither movement sees itself as an actual group or organization. In fact, “Praying, listening, trusting” isn’t even a formal name;

rather, it’s a title one of the organizers came up with when creating a Facebook page in order to communicate and share their Zoom link.

Nor are they narrowly focused on the proposals before General Assembly to redefine marriage and formally accept ministers and elders who are in same-sex marriages.

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A cautionary tale

By Ian Shaw
Renewal Board Chairperson

Admittedly my awareness of the details is limited [sketchy, disjointed, distant], but even so the situation evokes descriptions like distressing, disturbing, disastrous, devastating, even debacle. One of our partner churches, The Guyana Presbyterian Church, is experiencing deep division, perhaps even its death knell.

Recent developments involve: *i*) two rival groups, each forming a Synod [their highest court] which claims to be the legitimate authority in the GPC, *ii*) a disruption of a Reformation

Day worship service with physical intimidation in play, *iii*) appeals to the wider church asserting authenticity and *iv*) threats of police and legal action. It’s a very heart-breaking situation.

Linda and I served in Guyana for three years, a decade or so ago and have remained in intermittent communication since then. We know some of the ‘players’ and some of the dynamics, but I don’t assume to comprehend all that’s transpiring, nor to have the solution to the troubles.

Nonetheless, as the drama unfolds a whole continent south of us, I began to perceive possible parallels for us.

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Renewal Day 2021 — save the date!

Zoom gathering will take place Saturday April 17

With no end in sight for the COVID-19 pandemic, The Renewal Fellowship board of directors, which met on November 21, decided to play it safe for its annual general meeting and Renewal Day.

As we did in 2020, the gathering will most likely take place completely online via Zoom Meeting. The likelihood that restrictions will be eased by the spring is doubtful. Even if a vaccine is widely distributed this winter, the chance of finding a congregation willing to host us is slim. Besides, the 2020 Renewal Day was a great success considering it was our first attempt at a purely online AGM.

As press time, we are still confirming details, such as theme and speakers. Details will be posted on our website, Facebook page, sent by email and, for those who prefer, Canada Post.

We will have a nominal fee as we did in 2020 in order to cover speaker honoraria.

While there is no substitute for gathering in person, we recognize that an online gathering is an equalizer for those spread out across this vast nation. Renewal Days naturally happen in Ontario because that's where the large majority of our supporters

reside. When it's online, it's feasible for just about everyone to take part.

However, there is one challenge with an online meeting — not everyone has access to reliable high-speed Internet. Sadly, those in the furthest reaches of Canada (who would gain the most from equal access) are the ones with bandwidth challenges.

Other business:

The board spent some time discussing where we would place our priorities in the months to come. Theological change has caused us to ponder our continued place in the PCC. The pandemic has grounded our executive director. Consequently, we will continue to emphasize our use of online technology for meetings and communication. One notable new initiative will be to develop downloadable devotions and messages to make up for in-person presentations. Think of it as a gift of a virtual message to congregations

Board of directors

“And let us not neglect our meeting together . . . but encourage one another.”

Hebrews
10:25



**Renewal
Café**
+

Renewal Café is a new initiative from Executive Director Andy Cornell.

which are having a tough time finding willing pulpit supply in the pandemic.

Another notable initiative is Renewal Café, a new online community intended to help us connect in an age of travel bans. (Go to renewal-fellowship.ca for updates.)

On the financial front, we are profoundly grateful to have received a \$50,000 bequest from the estate of Margaret Hill. We are also grateful for the increase in donations following a fundraising appeal. Renewal also received a forgivable \$10,000 loan from the funds from the Canadian Emergency Business Account.

Ian Shaw

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The GPC currently has two groups of clergy and elders each claiming to be the legitimate Synod (shades of 1925). We in The PCC have overtures for the next General Assembly seeking a similar structural duality. However, the goal of the overtures is to establish two collegial Synods without disputes about authenticity in order to alleviate disputes around theology.

I don't know if the prayer of those overtures is the way forward for us or not, but I believe the trauma occurring in the GPC can be instructive for us. As I noted, I have limited information and insight, but I do know that some of the upheaval happening

has a long history. I do know that human hubris, an unwillingness to seek unity, aspiring to be in control, a priority on property and a willingness to apply 'rules' unevenly are persistent factors in the demise of decency and order on display.

And I do know if we do not constructively address our divisions (and hubris, uneven application of authority, disdain for unity) we are not immune to the trauma presently playing out in our partner church. Oh, we may not have 'sit ins' (though physical protests by rival factions are not unknown these days) nor appeals to secular authorities (though human rights tribunals and other court actions have occurred), but there will be far reaching, unhappy and non-edifying repercussions.

We can use the GPC debacle to teach us. First, without guile, we can practise Matthew 5:44. Seeking divine blessing on the ones who oppose you will change inner dynamics for the better. Second, those who lead can resolve to set aside personal agendas and to forgo promoting potentially divisive practices or initiatives. One doesn't heal a wound in one place by opening fresh injuries in another. Third, pray for our brothers and sisters in the GPC and as you do, also humbly ask God to reveal any attitudes within yourself that could lead to similar unfortunate displays among us.

Ian Shaw
Reformation Day, 2020

PresbyCan at a quarter century

In a pandemic, daily devotional more vital than ever

By **Andy Cornell**
Executive director

As the world prepares to enter a second year of physical distancing and restricted travel, PresbyCan Daily Devotionals promise to become more important than ever. For many devoted readers, the online ministry is a vital daily dose of scriptural wisdom. As some readers attest (see comments below) this ministry has kept them grounded in Christ in a world which has become somewhat un-
hinged.

With a volunteer staff of five, PresbyCan ministers daily to more than 5,200 people around the world through email, with 900 hits every day on its website as well as 600 readers on Facebook. There are over 8,700 devotionals in their searchable archives written by over 550 authors.

Those numbers are powerful. But there's an even greater story behind it. It's

about how God works in ways we cannot imagine, preparing a foundation, piece by piece. Because of the sovereignty and providence of God, whenever we do something, however simple, we never know where the Lord will take it, or what effects our action will have.

All that is a fitting tribute as PresbyCan celebrates 25 years in May 2021.

a 120-hour job of manual statistical calculations for a geography assignment. Computers were just coming into prominence, so I decided that I would rather spend 120 hours learning how to program a computer to do the work. I asked a friend to show me how to program those massive calculations on the computer. I grew to love writing computer programs immensely. Later

on in seminary, as I stood watching the whirring IBM 360s in the Engineering building, I asked myself why I wasn't pur-

suing a career in programming! I rationalized that computers are predictable, but people are more important, and reaffirmed my decision to enter the ministry. Little did I know that what I thought I had given up to serve the Lord would later become a major means of serving the Lord through these devotionals.



The following is a first-person account of the PresbyCan story from one of its founders, Rev. Robin Ross – who is also Renewal Fellowship's webmaster – who continues to guide the ministry in his retirement.

“The roots of PresbyCan actually began in the mid 1960s. When I was in university 55 years ago, I was facing

See PresbyCan Page 4

‘Calming reprieve in the hubbub of earthly matters’

PresbyCan readers
voice their appreciation

“In an increasingly troubled world, PresbyCan Daily Devotional reminds us of what is truly important, the love of God and His active presence in our lives. I have started every day for the past year with PCC Daily Devotional and the Bible reading selections. While the world remains troubled, PCC Daily Devotional is helping me to live ‘in the world’ and not ‘of the world.’

“Thank you! This message is exactly what we needed to hear this morning. We are going through difficult

times, and now we are reminded of God's promise for us through this verse in your devotional.”

“I love these devotions and every morning it is the first thing I read. Because of the devotions, I see God more and more in the ordinary things of my daily life and find myself asking what is God teaching me here now in this time.

“I find the Daily to be a calming reprieve in the hubbub of day-to-day earthly matters that cause us stress and concern. Whether I read the Daily in the morning, evening or somewhere in between, I find it calms my thinking and reminds me that God is in control, that I am one of His children, and that He loves

me in spite of my sins.”

“It blesses lives in need of spiritual uplift. Yes, you might say, the Daily blesses me. But that's not very original. For me it is also God's Daily dose of love, encouragement and instruction. Also, it is an uplifting Daily morsel from God's word.”

“It seems to set my mind on the right path and makes a good start for the morning. . . . I have a granddaughter 16 years old that I have forwarded some very good advice to given in the devotional. Keep up the wonderful messages.”

PresbyCan devotionals turns 25

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“Back in the early 1970s, straight out of seminary, I was posted to a two-point charge on the Trans-Canada Highway in Saskatchewan. As I was considering ways to do mission in our community, one of my ideas was to put an answering machine on a telephone line and record a brief devotional message that people could call in to hear. SaskTel said that if this outreach proved to be too popular, the line-up of calls could tie up the whole telephone exchange, so they insisted on multiple lines and call-switching equipment at business-class rates. The package was more than I could pay or ask my congregations to pay, so I abandoned the idea — or so I thought.

“My next charge was in Trenton, Ontario. During my time there, area ministers were asked to come into the local radio station and record three-minute devotionals to be aired at 8:00 a.m. each weekday. During that time, I wrote and recorded about 30 devotionals. I kept the scripts. Also during that time, the first desktop computers came out, so I bought one and learned how to program it.

“By 1996, I was ministering in Mission BC, and email and the Internet were just becoming popular. Michael Farris began PCCWeb with a grant from the church’s Experimental Fund. He posted a new editorial each week, but I suggested that he needed some feature that would bring people back each day. I suggested that he program a date function so that each day’s *Presbyterian Prayer Partnership* prayer request would be posted automatically without being manually changed. Michael took up the challenge, but instead of putting the prayer request on the home page, he put it on its own page. It looked pretty bare by itself, and he challenged me to write some devotionals to go with it. *Daily* made its public debut on May 25th, 1996. I used my 30 devotional scripts to get going, soon to be joined by 70 other volunteer writers. Within a year, Michael gave me access to the site, and I wrote scripts for the PrayerLine so that people could post prayer requests.

“By April of 1998, the *Daily* was still attracting only about 60-80 readers a day to our website, and I realized that we could minister to a greater audience if we sent the devotionals out by email. So I wrote computer scripts that would automatically send out the devotionals by email each day. I sent out emailed notices, and within two days, well over 200 people had signed up for this free service. That required more scripts to handle the subscriptions automatically. Obviously, we had developed a good reputation. People were subscribing from around the world. So often, people would write encouraging feedback saying that the day’s devotional was exactly what they needed to hear from the Lord!

“As my programming skills improved and my computer equipment was upgraded, I gradually added more design features. A year later, our circulation had reached 883 a day. Unfortunately, the growth had seriously cut into the time that I needed to spend on my congregational ministry. Reluctantly, I tendered my resignation to the church’s Internet Task Force. Instead of accepting it, they countered that at that time, I was the only person in the PCC who was trained to do this, and they offered me help in the form of Jane Anne Waller, who immediately looked after the subscriptions and feedback, and still does today. Garnet Schenk offered to moderate the PrayerLine and was recently replaced by George Myers. Mary Jane Hanson served for several years as the Submissions Editor. These days, I prepare devotionals for publication and record the podcasts, and James T. Hurd is the Devotional Editor while Terry Folster administers the Facebook page.

“When I look back on these desires and decisions of mine, I realize that God was preparing me for this ministry long before I (or anyone else) had even dreamt of there being an Internet on which a Christian computer programmer could present devotionals to a worldwide audience! It boggles the mind even trying to think about God’s foreknowledge — from before we were born! How could we ever doubt His care and loving kindness, seeing how

He prepares us for unique ministries through our unique experiences? What a wonder and privilege it is to have the opportunity to exercise the gifts and inspiration that God has prepared for us, for His glory! And that’s not all that He has prepared for us: heaven awaits — the best is yet to come! Paul wrote, “No eye has seen, no ear has heard, and no mind has imagined what God has prepared for those who love him.” (*1 Corinthians 2:9b NLT*). With unrestricted vision, He sees the whole scope of life, and how to fit in what we’re doing, right now, with His great scheme of things. We see only in part; we know only in part. Resolve today to trust His wisdom, who sees and knows all.

“As I think about my career decisions, there seems to be an important principle in life that something has to die before something else can be born. Jesus said, “I tell you the truth, unless a kernel of wheat falls to the ground and dies, it remains only a single seed. But if it dies, it produces many seeds.” (*John 12:24 NIV*) Jesus had to die before He was raised to new life. In order to serve the Lord in full-time ministry, I sacrificed my desire to do computer programming — the death of a vision. The Lord gave that back to me in an unexpected computerized ministry — the re-birth of a vision. So when the door closes, the Lord says “No!” or a dream of yours goes up in smoke, remember the principle of “the death of a vision — the re-birth of a vision.” In the Lord’s economy, what dies gives birth to new life somewhere else. We believe in the overcoming power of the resurrection — life conquers death. God gives back to us, in improved form, what we sacrifice to Him in obedience.”

EDITOR’S NOTE: As with any volunteer-based enterprise, the future is never certain. Devotionals require editing and revision, PHP-based websites require constant supervision. Is the Lord calling you to lend a hand? Contact Robin Ross at rross@telus.net.

Unity within orthodoxy

Continued from Page 1

While Remits 'B' and 'C' may be a catalyst behind unity, there is general agreement that The Presbyterian Church in Canada (PCC) is moving away from such foundational truths as Biblical authority, the uniqueness of Christ as Lord and Redeemer, the work of the Holy Spirit, the sovereignty of God and the need to adhere to those things as disciples of Christ that are outlined in our subordinate standards and ordination vows.

Those in orthodoxy find themselves in four main camps:

- Remain in the PCC, also known as "stay and pray"
- Depart from the PCC, individually or in groups,
- Work towards the creation of separate theological courts in the PCC to allow revisionists and those in orthodoxy to establish their own theology and practice while sharing pension and benefits,
- Discerning which path to take.

The two new movements respect those different directions yet seek unity of spirit within orthodoxy.

Praying, listening, trusting:

The idea came from Rev. Jonathan Hong, of Toronto Korean Presbyterian Church, in a discussion with Rev. Jon Wyminga, of Cariboo Presbyterian Church in British Columbia.

"Jonathan and I talked about the situation concerning human sexuality in our denomination and how we will proceed," Wyminga recalled in May 2020. "As we reflected, we recognized that the COVID-19 situation has given us a whole extra year to reflect and prepare before any final decisions are made. While a year of more delays creates some problems, we recognized that this could be a great gift from the Lord. Instead of spending all of that year engaged in debate and planning about what to do Jonathan and I discussed the idea of dividing the next year into two six month periods. The first six months would be exclusively dedicated to praying for God's direction. The next six months would then be a time of prayerfully planning and implementing that direction."

No personal plans or agendas would be discussed or shared.

They launched the first gathering by Zoom Meeting on June 18 with nine people participating. Gatherings take place every other week and are led by Rev. Jon Wyminga and Rev. Shannon Bell of Cariboo. Prayer was centred around a group study of Gordon T. Smith's book The Voice of Jesus, led by Rev. Dr. Christine O'Reilly of Knox Thedford, Ontario. Approximately two dozen people had taken part by late November.

The book study has provided a "a good foundation as we engage in discernment in the coming months," said Jon. "We've drawn several people from across the country. I think we've had some very meaningful times of prayer and we're developing a growing sense of trust and openness within the group. I believe it has become a place where some people feel like they fit who don't feel that way in other groups. I think these last things are particularly important since, in other settings, I am concerned of rifts and distrust developing among those who may agree against the remits but disagree in the specifics of their response."

Much time has been spent in "repentant prayer," says O'Reilly. "Repentant prayer for the ways we have wounded one another, regardless of theological stance; a deep desire for humility; a trust that God is at work. We have prayed for those who believe differently, that they would be blessed. We have prayed for one another to be encouraged and listen for the voice of Jesus. We have been drawn together by this desire to pray and listen and trust God. We have been humbled and found a spirit of grace to move forward as we discern what the Spirit may be saying to us and leading us to do. There is no anger, gossip, backbiting or a sense of complaint or enmity with anyone. There is a sense that we all need to move forward in freedom and to be able to be at peace; to bless one another with grace, no matter what 'side' or 'direction' people are committed to."

The group moves into its second six-month phase in January. The plan is to continue praying for all parties, for the PCC and for one another as GA 2021 draws near.

"We do not know what GA 2021 will bring. COVID-19 is going to bring profound change to the PCC regardless of remits, and so the PCC cannot and will not 'stay the same'," O'Reilly says.

PCC-Covenant came together in September under the leadership of Rev. Doug Cameron, a retired PCC minister.

"We are deeply concerned that Evangelicals, Conservatives, Orthodox, Traditional (ECOT) members of the PCC need to work and worship together regardless of what they may decide to do in the aftermath of the next GA," he said in a September 2020 statement.

He and others of like mind reached out to RF and PSALT with a proposal to hold virtual town hall meetings "to encourage [those in orthodoxy] to walk in a manner worthy of Christ" and discern what those paths might look like. With the support of both groups, the first town hall was focused on encouraging participants "to walk worthy of the Lord, and to begin dealing with any unresolved bitterness, anger, unforgiveness in our hearts so that we don't carry it into whatever new work God may lead us into post-GA 2021."

The centrepiece of PCC-Covenant is a statement which calls on those in orthodoxy to "hold ourselves accountable to the highest standards in our speech, in what we post, and in how we act." The covenant urges us to exhibit "Christlikeness in our behaviour and in our communication."

The Covenant recognizes that there is a lot of underlying tension in the PCC, which has often erupted in conflict. The covenant recognizes this and calls upon everyone to "walk and talk in a manner that honours Christ and is in keeping with the scriptures. . ." (Go to www.PCC-Covenant.ca to view the Covenant. The website includes an opportunity to sign off in support.)

O'Reilly, who is one of the signatories of the Covenant, said "there is a strong emphasis on the need for all parties to have a commitment to forgiveness sought and received, and move forward with humility and healthy spirituality, not anger or bitterness."

"A huge underlying theme . . . is our need to seek forgiveness for the sins we have committed: our anger, disrespect of others, the ways evangelicals have at times baited their opponents and not behaved well; how we have too often loudly said what we oppose, and not offered hope as to what we are for," she added.

The next town hall meetings are Jan. 21 and 23. The agenda will include breakout rooms for the four camps.

PROFILE: First PC, Trail BC

By Dr. Dan Boateng
First PC Trail Elder

Historical - *In the beginning God* sent one Rev. Robertson in 1896 to start the Presbyterian ministry here in Trail BC. *And the Lord God* continued to send faithful servants to keep up the ministry through the years of the first century of the life of the congregation. In 1925, the continuing Presbyterians were the minority, losing by one vote (as the story is told) in the local vote for Church Union.

Exactly a century after the first Robertson, *the Lord God* sent this time two Robertsons (1996) to begin the second century of Presbyterian ministry in Trail BC. And the two Reverends, Gavin and Meridyth Robertson, continue as the ministers to this day.

Vision &

Mission – The vision and mission statements have evolved over the last 30 years as elders on Session changed. But a few elements have remained constant:

- to remain authentic – true to the word of God and for His glory;
- to be a community of compassion – always aspiring and striving to be known for being compassionate and loving;
- to make an impact for Christ locally, nationally and internationally;
- to adopt the concept of an enduring ministry – to remain a thriving congregation until the Lord's return.

Session's strategic goal in recent years is captured in the missional statement: "*Come and See, Stay and Learn, Go and Serve*". Session at its annual Retreat & Strategic Planning defines objectives and

actions towards living this out as a congregation, to the glory of God.

Who we are now – We remain a small congregation, but one intent on growing both spiritually and numerically. Though our largest demographic remains that of seniors, we are blessed more and more with younger couples and families with young children.

The present congregation consists of a few with a lifelong Presbyterian background and the majority who are from



We are the Church – TOGETHER!
www.firstpctrail.ca
www.facebook.com/firsttrail

other traditions who have made First Church their home, not because we are a Presbyterian church but because we are a conservative congregation with traditional beliefs.

What we do – Our blended Sunday worship service is at the heart of our church family. We sing a variety of music from contemporary to traditional hymns. Our ministers and occasional guest preachers work hard on delivering edifying and strongly Bible based sermons.

Our annual family-focused activities such as our Church picnic, family camp, and Christmas Eve Services, are well received and attended.

Smaller Group Activities have included a variety of programs including Alpha, Timothy Keller and other studies from RightNowMedia (www.RightNowMedia.com). Our Ladies and Men's ministries offer retreats and study breakfasts. One of our Bible Study/

Prayer Groups is a marathon group meeting weekly all-year round.

The COVID pandemic, with its restrictions, helped reveal an opportunity for online ministry: livestreaming on Facebook and the use of Zoom for Bible Studies and meetings has been a real blessing.

Mission & Outreach – For several years the congregation has allocated over 10 per cent of its annual budget to missions. The Missions Committee has led the congregation to support projects and initiatives: local, presbytery, national & international (including additional PWS&D support). We have our own quasi missionaries – a couple from the congregation who spend half the year in Africa (Ghana) involved in Church and mission work. Out of the Missions committee came our annual *Community Christmas Dinner* which has been serving 100-150 people each Christmas season. Christmas 2020 the dinner will continue by takeout only.

Our ministers are also very involved in the community. Rev. Meridyth is the padre for the Royal Canadian Legion Branch 11. She is also called upon to offer prayers in the community for various events from the Inauguration of council members to the Citizen of the Year.

Rev. Gavin has served as a Chaplain in the Primary Reserves for the last 22 years, and currently serves as Chaplain to the 39 Canadian Brigade Group Headquarters.

**Know a vibrant
congregation?
Pray tell.**

renewalfellowshipccc@gmail.com

A remembrance and a ‘reminder’

Don MacLeod publishes personal memoir

By **Andy Cornell**
Executive Director

Requiem (noun) — 1) A Mass for the repose of the souls of the dead. 2) A musical composition setting parts of a requiem Mass, or of a similar character. 3) An act or token of remembrance. [Source: Oxford English Dictionary.]

It’s the third definition which fits Rev. Don MacLeod’s latest published writing. An almost-legendary figure in the PCC, MacLeod had an extraordinary career which touched no fewer than eight decades (if one includes his first sermon at the age of 10 — all the way to the 2020.) *A Presbyterian Requiem* is billed as a “memoir” of six appointments, but it could also be described a “blow-by-blow account.” That’s not to sensationalize or dramatize. Rather it’s to point out that in ministry, there is never a dull moment. MacLeod bears witness: “Yes, there are scars, but only in service of the One who was scarred for me on Calvary,” he notes in the introduction. Of course, there are many joys in ministry too, otherwise we would not remain standing: “Years of ministry have surrounded me with a host of friends who have greatly enriched my life,” he states. That sentence describes the substance of the memoir: a rich and vivid description of the faithful souls which have surrounded one minister as he

A Presbyterian REQUIEM

A CANADIAN PASTOR REFLECTS ON
50 YEARS OF MINISTRY



A. Donald MacLeod

and his family traversed Presbyterian terrain on both sides of the Canada/United States border.

This is a really good read. I am tempted to describe it as a page turner. What draws you in are the insights into ministry at every level. Each chapter brings something new. It’s a must-read for anyone interested in a dose of PCC history from an evangelical perspective. It’s a rich collection of names, places, dates and experi-

ences. Any pastor would be encouraged after reading this work for the simple reason that it’s always good to be reminded that we are not alone.

Back to the title. Requiem indicates a loss. MacLeod admits that his narrative is more than just “a personal description of what I have observed and participated in. It is a requiem for all that has been lost in the passage of time, as well as a reminder of what made us once a great church.” These are not the tears of someone who yearns for bygone days as mere nostalgia. No, they are a lament shared by those in every generation who search for a more authentic expression of Christ’s body. On that note, it’s worth mentioning that MacLeod was the founding chairman of The Renewal Fellowship and remains a vibrant supporter.

MacLeod offers an encouraging conclusion. I won’t offer any spoilers, but if you need a dash of hope, it awaits.

Looking for a gift for a PCC pastor in your life? It’s available for purchase on Amazon in hardcover, paperback and Kindle editions.

Other publications by A. Donald MacLeod: George Murray of the U.P. (1996), W. Stanford Reid (2004), C. Stacey Woods (2007), A Kirk Disrupted (2013), China Mishkid (2018).

Prayer requests for a new year

GENERAL ASSEMBLY will be held completely online from June 6-9. Pray for the GA Design Team (a sub committee of Assembly Council), that the Holy Spirit will fill them with uncommon wisdom as they determine how discussion will take place. Pray for worship that is God-centred.

CONGREGATIONS — many are in crisis of sustainability. Pray for all 45 presbyteries as they tend to the health of congregations and their ministers.

PCC-COVENANT: The next online gathering will be Jan 23 and 25. Pray for the organizers and discussion leaders. Pray for participants — those who are planning to leave the PCC, those who are working for structural change within the PCC to allow for the continuation of “authentic Biblical thinking,” those who are vowing to remain within the fold no matter what transpires, and those who are still discerning God’s will.

PRAYING, LISTENING, TRUSTING: Pray that this online prayer gathering may result in a rich harvest of God’s will in the year to come.

St. Andrew’s Perth

is a congregation that is passionate about evangelism, hungry for strong preaching based on the Word of God and enjoys times of fellowship.

We are seeking a new minister who will lead our congregation in worship, biblical preaching and growth through evangelism, Bible study and equipping our strong leadership team.

Apply to Rev. Stephen Dunkin

stephengdunkin@gmail.com

613-272-9114

Board profile: Debbie Stimphil

I grew up in a Baptist church but saw the light in 2007 when I began attending St. Andrew's in Welland. I joined the church and was asked to be an elder. I knew many people who attended St. Andrew's and everyone made me feel welcome. I was asked to attend a WA meeting and now I am past president.



of Niagara and am a member of the WMS Council executive. I represent the WMS council on the PWS&D advisory board.

I was widowed a year ago in October and have since met a wonderful man who lives in Haiti. We met in Chicago at his brother's house and were married on November

13, 2020. My new name is Debbie Stimphil.

When I became an elder there was a need for a Presbytery rep. I am still the representative elder and have just finished my term as Moderator of Presbytery in September. I am the President of the Presbyterial

I am very happy to be a member of the Renewal Fellowship Board and hope that I can meaningfully and prayerfully contribute to their ministry.

Support Renewal

Prayer is always the most important contribution you can make. And if the Lord is leading you to support us financially, there are a number of ways:

- **NEW:** E-transfers are now being accepted. Through your financial institution, send to renewalfellowshipccc@gmail.com. This is our preferred method as it's quick and there are no deductions.
- Make a one-time or occasional donation by credit card or send a cheque in the mail. 3819 Bloor Street West, Etobicoke, Ontario M9B 1K7
- Make regular donations through the PAR plan on our website.
- Ask your church's Mission Committee to consider adding us to the congregation's annual budget.
- Renew your membership and encourage one other person to become a member via renewal-fellowship.ca, see SUPPORT US.

No matter what you do, we are grateful for all your financial support. Almost 100 per cent of our revenue is from donations.



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Jillian McWhinnie, Mississauga, Ont.
Rev. John Park, London, Ont.
Leslie Ruo, (secretary) Saskatoon, Sask.
Rev. Ian Shaw, (chair) Simcoe, Ont.
Debbie Stimphil, Welland, Ont.

Members normally serve for two terms of three years each (six years total) but this is often extended. Board members are elected at the spring annual general meeting. The board meets at least three times a year.

Staff

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RF's mission:

To lead each other and
 The Presbyterian Church in Canada
 to authentic Biblical thinking,
 powerful Spirit-led prayer,
 and effective Gospel witness.