

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 speak to congregations and groups ONLINE ANYTIME during the pandemic.

Contact info Page 8.

The Renewal News is a quarterly publication of Renewal Fellowship.

We welcome your stories

Navigating thru the storm Renewal Day and AGM April 17

What can the faithful do when the church is spiritually adrift? Be anchored in Christ and look for a safe harbour.

As The Presbyterian Church in Canada approaches a potentially historic General Assembly — where the authority of scripture is being challenged via the remits over sexuality and ordination — what better opportunity to remind ourselves of our true foundation.

For inspiration, we're turning to our new friends at *Cruxifusion*, a network of ministers who are centred on Christ. They're self-described as an "evangelical, traditional, orthodox, conservative" witnesses. They arose from the roots of the former *United Church Renewal Fellowship*, *Community of Concern*, *National Alliance of Covenanting Congregations* and *Church Alive*. Those four groups formed at various times and each had a slightly different focus, whether spiritual, political or theological. When the United Church decided to ordain those in LGB communities

in 1988, many members of those renewal groups departed the denomination. Those who remained in the UC wrestled with their purpose. In time, they struggled with membership and energy. Despite the theological drift in the UC, young orthodox ministers were still entering the denomination. With seed money and spiritual support from the old renewal groups, *Cruxifusion* was born in 2010. They've been a safe harbour for like kinds and a witness for Christ.

Renewal's board gathered by Zoom with some members of the *Cruxifusion* board of directors and supporters last September to hear their stories. Among them was Rev. Dr. Greg Brawn. We've invited him to share his hope and witness at our annual Renewal Day.

Greg grew up in Hamilton and was ordained by the United Church of Canada in 1998. He has ministered in Nova Scotia, Newfoundland and has been serving Byron United in Lon-



Greg Brawn

don, Ontario since 2007. In 2019, Greg completed his Doctor of Ministry in Preaching degree from McCormick Theological Seminary. He is passionate about Jesus Christ and about working with others to build communities of holy joy, faith, and love.

See Page 2 for registration details.

Putting the Bite back in the Apple

By Ian Shaw

RF board chairperson

Sometimes it is mind-boggling to realize that just one year ago the word 'pandemic' evoked pleasant images of a happy evening playing a co-operative board game with family and friends. During this past 12 months many, many ordinary

people have demonstrated admirable qualities of passion, perseverance and personal sacrifice as they have risen to the demands resulting from the coronavirus. Most of us can put names to these neighbours and citizens who have made the challenges of these perilous times less daunting.

Perhaps it is my stage of life, but in spite of all those fine ex-

amples of praiseworthy behaviour, I have also been chagrined by persistent evidence of prominent folk acting in ways that can only be described as piecemeal, parochial and/or paranoid. None of those behaviours nor their underlying motivations build healthy communities.

See IAN SHAW Page 2



When: Saturday, April 17

Newfoundland 1:30 p.m.

Atlantic 1 p.m.

Eastern 12 noon

Central 11 a.m.

Mountain 10 a.m.

Pacific 9 a.m.

Register: Go to eventbrite.ca. Search “Navigating through the storm.”

Cost: \$20.00 per Zoom link + \$1.73 service charge.

We ask that you consider an optional donation for additional viewers. Zoom link will be sent by email.

Schedule

- Worship and prayer (25 min)
- Opening remarks (5 min)
- Guest speaker: Rev. Dr. Greg Brawn (60 min)
- Breakout discussion groups (30 min)
- Group sharing (30 min)
- Closing prayer & benediction (5 min)
- Annual meeting (approx. 60 min)
- Closing song, benediction and dismissal.

Ian Shaw

Continued from page 1

It is the last one though that has most often captured my focus. Paranoia - pandering to fear, using anxiety as a reason for action is not only psychologically damaging to all involved, it prevents hope from taking root. Since it enervates more than motivates, it is actually self-defeating as a means of inspiration.

In the realm of faith fear has no place. When love holds sway, fear vanishes (I John 4:18). When trust is put in God's Sovereign Rule, hope not fear fills the heart (Psalm 27:1). Perhaps I'm overly sensitive about this because the beginnings of my faith journey very much identify with Newton's hymn - 'Twas grace that taught my heart to fear, And grace my fears relieved'. My journey from line one

to line two was lengthy. Looking back, I regret the diminished joy and stunted love experienced during that delay. So maybe like someone in recovery, I over-react.

But I don't think so. I survey the landscape in our culture and in our denomination and it is easy to find reasons to fear. Our society seems to be increasingly divided with fault lines multiplying and widening - generational, regional, political, philosophical, racial and on and on. The PCC's theological differences appear to be hardening with negative impacts on our congregations' vitality, our conciliar cohesion and our capacity to want let alone to seek unity. Divisions rarely enhance life. Thus, you hear undertones of fear in many conversations about the future.

I sometimes hear it in my own voice and sense it in my own heart. Don't misunderstand me, these divisions are cause for serious concern and do summon us to ac-

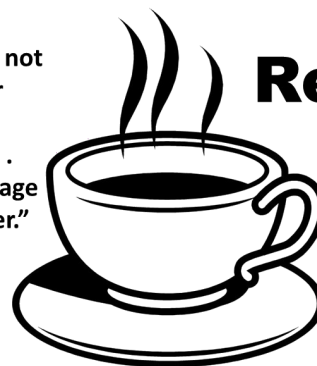
tion. But not motivated by fear. Rather we engage the darkness knowing that the Light of the World has come and the darkness can never overcome Him. We confront forces of disunity, knowing that in the Creator all things are held together. We take on complexity and confusion knowing that the Spirit is constantly teaching and renewing our minds, enabling us to discern truth from error. We face the possible loss of much that is precious to us, knowing the promise 'that what eye has not seen, nor ear heard' will come into fruition.

Fear, deep-rooted in the human heart, comes from disobedience (Gen. 3:8-10). Obedience in response to divine grace is the antidote. It is also the gift of God that will bridge the divisions and heal the hurts of those divisions. May such love-inspired faithfulness be the hallmark of our lives in these perilous days.



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

Hebrews
10:25



**Renewal
Café**



RENEWAL LIVES ONLINE: Ever since the pandemic forced us online, RF has devoted much of its resources to virtual connections. PCC-Covenant — the co-operative venture with PSALT and others who identify as evangelical, conservative, orthodox or traditional in the PCC — will have completed four town hall-style gatherings by the end of March. It’s been a safe place where those who are opposed to the theological drift from Biblical authority can share their concerns and hopes. A hallmark of the gatherings is the ability to gather in four groups to talk about the future: depart the PCC, divide into theological synods, stay and pray, discern. More than 100 individuals have taken part so far. For more information and to sign up, go to pcc-covenant.ca. Renewal Café is unique to RF. As the name suggests, it’s a small-group gathering where we talk about the joys and challenges of a Christ-centred life. Café attendance typically ranges from 6-12. Many are repeat customers — which tells us that there is a vital need for community. We gather the first Thursday of each month at 1 p.m. Eastern. For the link, email renewalfellowshipcc@gmail.com.

‘A dangerous precedent’

A joint statement from PSALT and RF

Since the denomination’s beginning, there have been unofficial groups gathering within The Presbyterian Church in Canada. They have been structured to pursue particular goals of Christian ministry. Some have been of an ad hoc nature, with both leadership and focus changing regularly. Others have been organized in more detail. PSALT and The Renewal Fellowship within The Presbyterian Church in Canada are two of these unofficial groups. Both have their roots in the self-described evangelical, conservative stream of the PCC.

These two groups occasionally find it prudent to act cooperatively and to speak as one. Information found in the October 2020 minutes of the Assembly Council has prompted us to circulate this joint comment. This comment offers concerns about process and offers no opinion on the topic at hand.

Leaders in PSALT and the RF have served in many positions of responsibility in the various courts of the church. We know that sometimes it appears politics more than theology is directing process, but we have long trusted both our Book of

Forms and our traditions [wont and usage] to offset this appearance and to assure that not only does justice get done, but also that it appears to be done.

The October 2020 minutes indicate that the Assembly Council has taken a far different and a deeply concerning detour from this understanding. The matter of Gracious Dismissal [see its history below] has been before the church since 2015. While its journey has been lengthy, the General Assembly gave it to the Assembly Council to prepare a report. As per custom the Council named members (task force/sub-committee) to do the initial work of designing a response. They did.

In the long-standing practice of the church, the Assembly Council would now consider the report of their task force and from it prepare an answer for the General Assembly. They have voted to not follow this practice and without seeking the permission of the General Assembly not to perform their duties as given to them.

We believe this a dangerous precedent. In turbulent times, we certainly do not need rogue behaviour if we are to promote unity and respect among ourselves and into our community. We find the recorded dissents in the October minutes compelling in their passion and reason and commend them to the whole church. The Task Force Report was included in one of the dissents

and can be found at renewal-fellowship.ca — search “gracious dismissal.” We are well aware that these are perilous times in our society, but especially within the church. We need to be able to trust those given authority to act responsibly and with integrity.

We are speaking neither for nor against the task force report as prepared — that is a decision for the General Assembly. We are concerned about the divisive spirit evident in a very few seeking to undermine our conciliar system. If we are to move forward as a denomination in mutual respect, we must have the integrity to honour the process that we’ve agreed upon in the Book of Forms, our Subordinate Standards and our traditions.

We encourage Presbyteries and Sessions to examine the October minutes of the Assembly Council and to voice their serious concerns with this deviation from our traditions and well-developed practices. Courts interested in the General Assembly history of the overtures related to Gracious Dismissal can find it in the following [Acts and Proceedings](#):
2015 (pp. 17, 249, 610,11);
2016 (pp.16,23,25,37,38,246ff, 281-83, 500-03,505-06, 509-11);
2017 (pp. 14,23,30,39-42,45,234-35,275-77,586-601, 604);
2018 (pp. 36, 250-55)

Spring 2021 small group prayer guide

Dear friends,
It's been more than 12 months since our world went into various stages of turmoil in response to a microscopic virus. Physically, we are on the defensive. But we are much more than flesh and blood. Spiritually, we are called to be on the offensive. There is much to pray for.

In addition to our daily prayer guide for April, May and June, I offer the following for use by small groups and sessions.

Let us fall down and worship before the Lord our maker.

Praise the LORD! Praise the LORD from the heavens! Praise him from the skies! Praise him, all his angels! Praise him, all the armies of heaven! Praise him, sun and moon! Praise him, all you twinkling stars!

Praise him, skies above! Praise him, vapors high above the clouds!

Let every created thing give praise to the LORD, for he issued his command, and they came into being. He set them in place forever and ever. His decree will never be revoked.

Praise the LORD from the earth, you creatures of the ocean depths, fire and hail, snow and clouds, wind and weather that obey him, mountains and all hills, fruit trees and all cedars, wild animals and all livestock, small scurrying animals and birds, kings of the earth and all people, rulers and judges of the

earth, young men and young women, old men and children.

Let them all praise the name of the LORD. For his name is very great; his glory towers over the earth and heaven!

He has made his people strong, honouring his faithful ones — the people of Israel who are close to him. Praise the LORD! (Psalm 148, New Living Translation)

Let us repent and seek God's assurances.

- In the face of our disregard for Your will and our mistreatment of one another, You continue to love and forgive us. We give You thanks.
 - Despite the incessant criticism of our public officials, we enjoy peace, safety and security in this great nation. We give You thanks.
 - Notwithstanding the tragedies in our long-term care homes and the strain upon those on the front line in health care, Lord we really haven't seen widespread chaos as a result of the pandemic. We give You thanks.
 - We pollute the air, fill oceans with plastic waste and poison the land, but we are renewed each spring with verdant valleys filled with colour. We give You thanks.
- Let us pray now in the Holy Spirit.
- General Assembly: may commission-

ers be willing to submit to you and seek your will, may the moderator be equipped and able to preside in fairness and with prudence, may the clerks and the committee on business be mindful of the limitations of an online agenda, may commissioners speak truth with grace.

- Our denomination: may those serving at 50 Wynford Drive make genuine Spiritual revival under the authority of scripture a primary focus of their ministry.
- Our presbyteries: may they be willing to plant new congregations that are focused on the Great Commission.
- Our congregations, their sessions and people: may we be truly awakened and willing to shed any ministry, practice or thinking that is not wholly centred on the need to go into the world, baptize and teach new believers to seek complete submission to the Lord.

Keep praying – whether it's online or in person. Our Father hears us and sees us. To God be the glory.



Rev. Andy Cornell
Executive director

소그룹 기도모임 가이드

2021년 봄

친애하는 형제 자매 여러분,

전세계가 미세 바이러스로 인하여 여러 혼란에 빠진 지 어느덧 12개월을 넘겼습니다. 육신에 대하여 우리는 방어적인 자세를 취하고 있지만, 우리는 육신만을 가진 존재가 아닙니다. 영적으로 우리는 공격적인 자세를 가지도록 부름 받았습니니다. 기도해야 할 때입니다.

4,5,6월 매일 기도 가이드에 더하여, 소그룹과 당회들이 모여 사용할 수 있는 가이드를 제공하고자 합니다.

먼저, 우리의 창조주 앞에 엎드려 경배합시다.

할렐루야 하늘에서 여호와를 찬양하며 높은 데서 그를 찬양할지어다
그의 모든 천사여 찬양하며 모든 군대여 그를 찬양할지어다

해와 달아 그를 찬양하며 밝은 별들이 다 그를 찬양할지어다

하늘의 하늘도 그를 찬양하며 하늘 위에 있는 물들도 그를 찬양할지어다

그것들이 여호와와 이름을 찬양함은 그가 명령하시므로 지음을 받았음이라도

그가 또 그것들을 영원히 세우시고 폐하지 못할 명령을 정하셨도다

너희 용들과 바다여 땅에서 여호와를 찬양하라 불과 우박과 눈과 안개와 그의 말씀을 따르는 광풍이며

산들과 모든 작은 산과 과수와 모든 백향목이며

짐승과 모든 가축과 기는 것과 나는 새며

세상의 왕들과 모든 백성들과 고관들과 땅의 모든 재판관들이며

총각과 처녀와 노인과 아이들아

Continued on Page 5

‘The future is nothing like the past’

By **Andy Cornell**

RF Executive Director

Truth be told, I dismissed this book without reading a single page. It was a freebie, handed out at the PCC Pastor’s Conference back in 2019, which screamed “remainder bin.” And the title — way too cute. So it sat on a shelf.

But then came the reviews from trusted colleagues, one of whom organized an online book club to study and discuss it. I cracked it open.

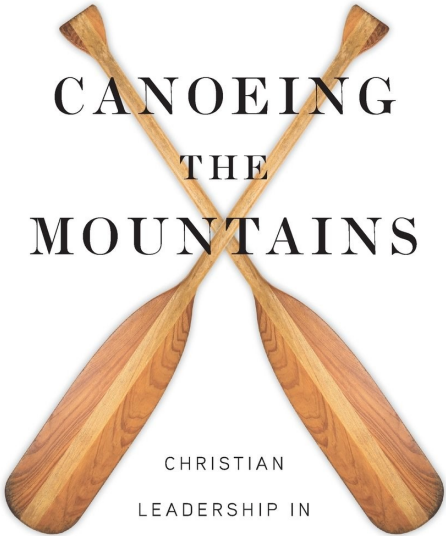
Resolved: do not ever judge a book by its cover.

The premise is actually quite simple: today’s churches are being guided, by and large, by leaders with outdated skills. For the most part, we were trained (conditioned?) to lead institutions in Christendom. Trouble is, institutional authority is dying and the Christian church is no longer part of the establishment. What’s badly needed is a different outlook. Nothing new there.

What’s compelling is the application of the explorer analogy. Author Tod Bolsinger compares today’s church leaders to the explorer duo Lewis and Clark, who were commissioned to discover the mainland waterway that would connect the Atlantic and Pacific oceans. It was the Holy Grail of the 18 and 19 centuries. Of course, the route never existed.

They made it to the ocean, but not the way they expected. When they faced mountain ranges, they required a different set of leadership skills. Fortunately, the expedition leaders were skilled enough to be able to adapt. In the same way, church leaders today need a new outlook as we advance the Kingdom in a vastly different world. It’s a highly-recommended read for those who have not lost the vision, but are willing to completely change their approach.

TOD BOLSINGER



CANOEING THE MOUNTAINS

CHRISTIAN
LEADERSHIP IN
UNCHARTED TERRITORY

Continued from Page 4

여호와와 그의 이름을 찬양할지어다
그의 이름이 홀로 높으시며 그의 영광이 땅과 하늘 위에 뛰어 나심이로다

그가 그의 백성의 뿔을 높이셨으니 그는 모든 성도 곧 그를 가까이 하는 백성 이스라엘 자손의 찬양 받을 이시로다 할렐루야

(시편 148편)

회개하며 주 안에서 확신을 얻읍시다.

주의 뜻을 저버리고 서로에게 잘못된 행함에도 불구하고, 우리를 지속적으로 사랑하시고 용서하시니 주님 감사합니다.

우리 정부에 대한 온갖 비판이 있

지만, 이 귀한 나라에서 누리는 평화와 안전과 보호에 주님 감사합니다.

장기요양원에서의 집단감염사태나 의료진들의 높은 피로도가 있었지만, 주님 그래도 이 코로나 사태로 아직까지 큰 혼란을 겪지 않아서 감사합니다.

우리가 공기와 바다와 땅을 오염시키는데도, 매 봄이면 아름다운 빛깔로 계곡이 새롭게 되니 감사합니다.

이제 성령 안에서 기도합니다.

총회: 총회회원들이 주께 순종하고 주님의 뜻을 따르며, 총회장이 공정과 신중함으로 회의를 주재하고, 서기들과 부서들은 온라인 진행의 한계에 대해 유념하며, 총회회원들이 은혜로 진리를 말하기를.

우리 교단: 50 Wynford Drive (교단 본부)에서 일하시는 분들이

성경 말씀의 권위 아래서 진정한 영적 부흥을 그들 사역의 중심으로 두기를.

우리 노회들: 대위임령(Great Commission)에 집중하는 새로운 교회들을 개척해 나가기를.

우리 교회들과 당회들과 성도들: 우리가 진정 깨어나, 세상에 나아가 세례를 주고 새로운 신자들을 가르치는 일에 집중하지 않는 사역이나 관습이나 사고를 주님께 온전히 헌신하도록 이끌 수 있기를.

온라인으로든 대면으로든 계속 기도하기에 힘쓰십시오. 우리 아버지께서 들으시고 보십니다.

하나님께 영광을 돌립니다.



Rev. Andy Cornell

Acting on a precedent

1998 Lachine rent-back offer might now go ‘the other way’

By Rev. Robin Ross
RF Webmaster

I am surprised that people are assuming that if their congregation leaves the PCC, they will either lose their building or have to buy it back. There is another alternative.

At the 124th General Assembly, held in Windsor, Ontario, in 1998, a Special Committee dealt with appeals regarding the conduct of a Presbyterian College student who was a declared practicing homosexual conducting services at St. Andrew's, Lachine. The Special Committee's four "cease and desist" recommendations were tempered by an amendment that read:

"That the Presbytery of Montreal be directed to offer the congregation of St. Andrew's, Lachine, the option of remaining within The Presbyterian Church in Canada in accordance with its present polity; if they choose to stay, then items 1 through 4 following be implemented; if they choose to leave, we wish them God-speed, and offer to rent the building to the congregation on terms to be worked out by the Presbytery of Montreal."

I was at that General Assembly, and when the amendment passed, I realized that they were setting a precedent. The day would come, I reasoned, when the Assembly's decision on same-sex practices would go the other way, and a congregation that disagreed with the decision and wished to leave the PCC ought to be able to rent back its building. In fact, the Assembly Council, working with the Presbytery of Montreal at the time, presented St. Andrew's, Lachine, with a lease for \$1 per year, with the congregation responsible for repairs to the building, but the lease was not accepted. Those who had gathered to support the student lost interest, and the congregation, which was already struggling, was dissolved.

Times have changed, and it seems possible that the decision will soon go "the other way." Precedent or not, sympathy for those who might disagree with the decision of the General Assembly seems to have evaporated. The recent refusal of the Assembly Council to even receive a report of the committee examining the possibilities surrounding Gracious Dismissal signals the development of a toxic culture in the leadership of the denomination.

What, then, might become of the rent-back precedent? The sale of a dissolved congregation's real estate assets is at the discretion of the presbytery. Under the current polity, when a congregation is dissolved, 50 per cent of the real estate proceeds and non-real-estate assets must go to the Pension Solvency Fund, up to a maximum of \$2 million, and the remainder stays with the presbytery. Urban property is very expensive to purchase, and a presbytery that wants to establish extension congregations in a city would want to hang onto what it has until an opportune time, renting or mortgaging it to support the work of the presbytery in the meantime. My own presbytery has done this to finance its hiring of a Presbyterian of Mission and Vision to revitalize the presbytery's congregations, many of which are in deep trouble. Rural church buildings can be more difficult to sell. A Christian group asked one presbytery to rent an abandoned country church, and I was tasked with preparing it for rental. At the time, I asked myself, if they can start a new congregation in that building, why can't we?

Of course, renting back to a congregation leaving the denomination is not a foregone conclusion. That would depend on the relationship that the congregation had with its presbytery and on how sympathetic the presbytery was with their cause.

- A greedy presbytery could sell a congregation's building back to it at market value and keep its half for funding the presbytery.
- A sympathetic presbytery could decide to support the new congregation by not selling the building, putting together a sweet rental deal, and funding the new congregation's ministry with its half of the non-real-estate proceeds from the previous congregation. The building could continue to be owned by trustees appointed by the Presbytery, or else the Trustee Board could administer it at the direction of the presbytery.
- A vindictive presbytery could refuse to rent the building back, as was often the case in the acrimony of 1925, when

some Presbyterian church buildings became fraternal halls, and the departing congregations had to build new churches.

A further complication could arise in a divided congregation where some members decided to leave while others stayed and retained the building as a continuing PCC congregation.

None of these cases is really a desirable outcome, because so often, the acrimony that arises from perceived injustice and broken, sour relationships prompts negative emotions which contain the seeds of their own destruction. Regularly, congregations that leave their denomination do not survive. That is one reason why the PCC-Covenant is so important. The Covenant swears its adherents to adopt Christlike attitudes of forbearance, forgiveness, mercy and grace, being willing to accept injustice and not retaliate, knowing that the God who graciously gives us all things will truly give us all that we need.

A first step towards testing the support of a Presbytery could be a request to rename the congregation. For example, Whalley Presbyterian Church has become City Centre (Surrey, BC) Church, and St. David's Presbyterian Church, Kelowna, has become Mountainview Church. This is also a viable way of distancing a congregation from the PCC without leaving the denomination. Some PCUSA congregations with property that is too expensive to buy back, such as Peachtree Church in Atlanta, Georgia, have successfully adopted the distancing approach of simply not participating in the denomination, and they are tolerated by their presbytery. They support mission projects of their own choosing, rather than the General Assembly budget.

As one effect of the pandemic, we have been given the gift of a year-long (or perhaps even a two-year-long) delay in making decisions on the Remits. Regardless of what happens or doesn't happen in the months to come, we can continue to believe that the PCC belongs to Christ, the only Head of the church. We can continue to thank God that He is in control of this situation!

A sympathetic presbytery could decide to support the new congregation by not selling the building, putting together a sweet rental deal.

PROFILE: Westminster Barrie

NOTE: The roots of renewal are in our congregations. We hope that sharing the brief story of a vibrant congregation may be encouraging to you.

By Jeff Walther

Westminster congregant

Our congregation began in 1962 in the gymnasium of a local public school. In 1964 we marched across a field to turn the soil at our new location in a nearby area of the city while singing “Onward Christian Soldiers.” Now an active group of about 400 people of all ages gather for weekly Sunday morning services and a variety of Christian studies and activities throughout each week.

But of course, a church isn’t a building. It’s the people of Christ, energized by the Holy Spirit. Through time Westminster has evolved. And we are so joyful that God is using us to love him and others for the healing of the world.

Alive with the Holy Spirit, Westminster is a Christ-Centred, Family-Friendly Church. We seek to be a relaxed-but-reverent gathering who worship with a blended style, don’t shy away from God’s truth, diversify the ways people can connect, and are hungry to learn about following Jesus in today’s world. We believe that, in the words of Pastor and Teaching Elder Matthew Ruttan, “The point is to point to Jesus.”

Our mission statement is succinct: “Loving God, Loving our Neighbours.”

Here’s what Jesus said about the most important commandment: “Love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your mind and with all your strength... [and] Love your neighbour as yourself” (Mark 12:30-31). These teachings permeate everything we do in our congregation and community.

Under the leadership of Pastor Ruttan, Westminster is a vibrant gathering place and community outreach is a vital part of our ministry and congregational activities.

Services are held every Sunday at 10:01 a.m. Our services usually include a Children’s and Adult Choir, much prayer, a

thought provoking and inspirational sermon, contemporary and traditional music. These are an integral part of worship as we focus on the main thing, which is Jesus. Sunday School is offered during this same time and Vacation Bible School and March Break camps are highlights for church and community youth each year. Members of the congregation are actively involved in



services through many innovative and connective opportunities to learn from and share with one another.

During the COVID-19 shutdown, Westminster has been livestreaming services on YouTube <http://westminsterpc.ca/youtube-stream> which is linked through the main church website (westminsterpc.ca)

Pastor Ruttan and the leaders of the church use many tools to communicate with the congregation and the community. Sermons, blogs, special music and study materials are available 24/7. Podcasts, Facebook, Instagram, Twitter and our YouTube Channel are used in conjunction with a Westminster app and traditional communication vehicles such as email and telephone. Pastor Ruttan has also authored two books of motivational and instructive daily devotionals (“Up!” / “Turbulence”) and hosts a weekday morning radio broad-

cast (Up!) on the Central Ontario Christian Radio Network LIFE FM.

Small group Bible studies (Vine & Alpha) are held in person and virtually year ’round, led by volunteer members of the congregation. Weekly prayer meetings, youth group gatherings, a “Stitch and Chatter” ladies group, choir practices and session meetings keep the halls of the church busy. Westminster’s commitment to be the hands and feet of Jesus in the community keeps members of the church busy supporting international and local outreach through various programs and charity work. Open community barbecues, a Christmas tree loaded down with hats and mittens for less fortunate families, unfailing support and fund/resource raising drives for the David Busby Street Centre, The Barrie Food Bank, Youth Haven and a wide variety of local causes are enthusiastically embraced by the people of Westminster.



“Pray. Trust God. Love Others.” These are the marching orders of our Lord Jesus and at Westminster Church Barrie we march onward as Christian soldiers to help facilitate the healing of the world and the work of God’s Kingdom here on earth.

In the words of Pastor Ruttan, “The teachings of Jesus offer the most hope for this world and its future.” Amen.

Westminster Church Barrie

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Barrie, ON L4M 2G4

·Email office@westminsterpc.ca

·Call us at (705) 728-0541

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**Know a vibrant
congregation?**

Pray tell.

renewalfellowshipccc@gmail.com

Board profile: Ed Charlton

Ed is a farm boy at heart, following in the footsteps that God has laid down within his family for multiple generations.

Growing up just north of London on farm, he was enriched by the heritage that his father carried with him and the reality of living on God's blessing each day.

Ed's faith journey began in the United Church of Canada and in his last year of high school was challenged to trust Jesus more and recognize Jesus' calling on Ed's life into ministry.

While Ed tried to resist the call into ministry, mostly because he did not feel properly suited, Jesus did not

give up and eventually he heeded the call to ministry and went to Tyndale Seminary and then to Knox College.

Ed has been part of the ministry at Trinity Community Presbyterian Church, First Presbyterian Church in Orillia, and St. John Presbyterian Church in Kapuskasing.

After being ordained Ed served as Pastor at Knox Morrisburg and Dunbar Presbyterian Church, and is currently serving at St. Andrew's Presbyterian Churches

in Arthur and Gordonville and as the North Wellington Fire Service Chaplain. Ed is married to Jess and they have seven wonderful children.



While the Gospel call to salvation is the true and lasting Good News, it's also true that people working together, sharing their successes and know-how is also good for The Kingdom.

In January 2020, the session of Zion Presbyterian Church in Charlottetown, PEI, sent an invitation to each congregation in the Synod of Atlantic Provinces asking them to share their success stories. "We are gathering Good News information from every church within the Atlantic Synod. By 'Good News', we mean special services, fellowship events, fundraising projects, etc. that have worked well for your congregation," the letter said.

In faith, the seeds were planted. After a bit of work, the fruit was a 68-page collection entitled "Hear the Good News!" Categorized into 15 themed sections, it's a rich mix of the expected, the unexpected and the genuinely delightful activities found in God's earthly Kingdom.

Renewal executive director Andy Cornell asked Zion's clerk of session, John Barrett, to provide a deeper look into thinking behind it and how it all came together.

Q I note your closing thought [in the introduction page of the publica-

tion] in which you state your wish is to strengthen the PCC as we learn from others. I get the sense that we operate in a more congregational mindset these days. What's the value of working together denominationally — especially in light of theological division and calls to create two national theological synods etc.

A I've always been of the opinion that we have so much to learn from each other. During my six years on Assembly Council it was certainly an eye opener for me regarding the differences in styles and practices taking place within the PCC. What a wonderful melting pot of ideas and approaches we have going on within our denomination. By sharing our successes, we all become more successful.

Q Walk me through the process — step by step from conception to distribution.

A By using the Synod directory for names and addresses, I wrote to each minister and representative elder in every church within the Synod. I explained the project and provided them with two sample submissions from Zion Church so they could in turn send me their submissions in a similar word count and format. With people being people, many were either too long, too short, required editing, follow up emails etc. At the end



Board of Directors

Don Bartlett, (vice-chair) Scarborough, Ont.
Rev. Ed Charlton, Arthur, Ont.
Rev. Stan Cox, (treasurer) Waterford, Ont.
Diane Eaton, Paisley, Ont.
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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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