

# Renewal News!

Volume No. 27, Issue No. 1, Winter 2022 Publications Mail Agreement No. 40039200 Charitable No. 89196 3563

## 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 **IN PERSON** or **ONLINE**.

Contact info Page 8.

The Renewal News is a quarterly publication of Renewal Fellowship.

We welcome your stories

## Prayer & care

### Renewal refocuses in the wake of change

By **Andy Cornell**  
Executive Director

Now what? That was the question on many minds after The Presbyterian Church in Canada turned from scriptural orthodoxy in June 2021 when General Assembly approved parallel definitions of marriage and formally allowed those who practice a non-Biblical sexual partnership to be ordained as ministers and elders and to be married by a PCC minister.

For many supporters of The Renewal Fellowship within The Presbyterian Church in Canada, the approval of re-

mits ‘B’ and ‘C’ marked The End – to orthodoxy, to an era, perhaps even to the organization. If not The End, then a new chapter at least.

The good news is that RF is still committed to the vision of renewal within the PCC. But what to do?

The RF board of directors spent the summer and early autumn mulling our official response. It was not an easy process. We used reflective questions. We identified several possible priorities or emphases. We used some statistical tools to help analyze personal preferences.

See **TWIN Page 2**

## Chafed by Safe!

By **Ian Shaw**  
RF Board chairperson

Mis-speaking seems to be almost as endemic in Western society as the COVID virus. Retractions, corrections, additional information and apologies [both abject and ambivalent] are common occurrences in the public sphere. One form of mis-speaking that rarely gets emended is incorrect use of the English language. One misuse in particular has drawn my attention, reflection and irritation.

I first recall this particular error back in the 1980s. Various authorities starting using the expression “safe sex” in the struggle to overcome HIV/AIDS. The correct phrase would have been “safer sex”, but I guess “safe” had a sexier sound than Safer. Regardless, the improper use of the phrase left the false impression that practices such as condom use would eliminate the spread of STDs or prevent pregnancies. “Safe(r) sex” would reduce the risk, yes, but eliminate it, no!

See **RETRACTIONS Page 2**

# Retractions, corrections, apologies, oh my!

## Continued from Page 1

Of course, for months now the same word has been similarly misused with respect to COVID as in “We are imposing these measures - to make you safe, to make our schools safe, to make society safe.”

The correct word would be safer. And again, the improper use has left the false, and to my mind dangerous, impression that there are measures that can keep you and your loved ones uninfected (though definitely not uneffected).

I then began to consider why this particular improper use of words was churning away inside me. I think in the 1980s I felt the misspeaking might encourage some to pursue behaviours that would prove to be harmful, whether or not pregnancy or STDs resulted. Today, I’m more stirred up by the

false worldview advocated by the misuse.

Our world and our life in it have never been safe [at least since the Fall]. Accidents, disease, natural calamities and human arrogance have made life on earth risky, even in the best of times. Therefore, a

safe existence this side of eternity is not possible. Leaders who promote “a life without risk” are offering false hope. Speaking falsely in an emergency is very dangerous.

For the follower of Jesus, it is also an idolatrous temptation. The symbol of our faith has nothing to do with a safe life; rather it is all about the risky life of personal sacrifice. If the cross doesn’t convince you, read Paul’s testimony in

2 Corinthians 11:24-28. So, this chafing with the misuse of safe is, I believe, at least in part, a spiritual reaction.

Safe and safety occur 32 times in the Bible. Two meanings dominate. One affirms God’s reliability – it is safe to trust in God. The other recognizes our need for de-

**L**eaders who promote “a life without risk” are offering false hope.

liverance [restore me to safety] as we live the risky life of faith in a world that has many threats and dangers and is generally hostile to the one seeking to live for God’s glory. Safe, even safer, has seductive appeal. However, neither is a priority for faithful living. Foolish risking is not faithfulness, but faithful living embraces risk in obedience to the leading of God’s Spirit.

# Twin focuses for Renewal Fellowship

## Continued from Page 1

We discussed, tabled and revisited (we are Presbyterian, after all). We prayed. Then we prayed some more.

Finally, at the Oct. 30 board meeting, a consensus emerged. After a time of passionate discussion and sharing, the board approved the following motion: “That Prayer and Pastoral Care be the focus of Renewal Fellowship for the next 12 months.”

The twin focus will be undertaken with the provision we are oper-

ating from the beliefs affirmed in our subordinate standards and in line with our ongoing vision: “To lead each other and The Presbyterian Church in

Canada to authentic Biblical thinking, powerful, Spirit-led prayer and effective Gospel witness.”

Two-person task groups, one for each priority, were sent forth to

discern specific initiatives to undertake. Their deliberations continue.

Stay tuned. Watch for initiatives

to be announced on our website, by email, on our YouTube channel and on our Facebook page.

**Renewal’s  
12 month focus:  
Prayer and  
Pastoral Care**

# Drawing guidance from nature

## Lessons from Squirrel Land

By **Andy Cornell**  
Executive Director

Picture a collection of old trees, filled with squirrels darting up and down the trunks and back and forth across the branches. They are frenetically active. Two squirrels are chasing one other with a walnut in its mouth. Theft? Covetousness? Fun and games? Squirrels just do what they are wired to do.

This time of year, they gather food for the winter. It's part of a basic, mundane life: hibernation, reproduction and watching for predators. Activities change according to the season and the immediate need. Seasons come and go, but in general, squirrels don't change. They don't allow weather to get in the way. They are mindful to the climate, the geography and adapt to whatever season or threat is presented. Seasons turn to years, decades, centuries and the lowly squirrel continues the lifestyle and lifecycle ordained by God.

Culture and technology don't interfere with the squirrel life because they have no concept of changing times. They carry on with the mission. (Hold on to that thought.)

Let's also assume that the squirrel has no concept of being, other than the instincts they have in order to survive as individuals and as a species. They are hard wired to react to the changing seasons and to immediate threats, either from within the species or from a predator. They just carry on.

God wills the squirrel to simply be a squirrel. Do

the instinctive thing and survive. End of story. There is no choice in the matter. I don't believe for a second that a young squirrel makes a conscious decision to BE squirrelly, or to venture out and seek a new kingdom, a purpose beyond gathering nuts. In this sense, squirrels are somewhat robotic.

Humans, of course, are different. (True, many of us

simply survive without much existential thinking. But even the most basic of human lifestyle still requires life choices.) Arguably the biggest difference between humans and animal life derives from our creation in God's image and the ongoing struggle between God, who wants our attention and submission and worship, and the enemy, who comes to lie and divert and get in the way of any effort made by ourselves or God to achieve a divine connection.

As a result, we quite often allow the enemy to have its way. We take the easy way. We seek dominance

over nature and fancy ourselves as our own gods. We worship ourselves. We seek to master the universe and control nature rather than accept that some things are not meant to change. We try to change God, which is a pointless and futile exercise, rather than allow God to change and control us.

Like the squirrel, humans have instincts. But because we are created in the image of God, we are invited to rise above them. We have awareness of ourselves as spiritual beings with souls which are lasting.



# Living Hope: Nov. 13, 2021

## Online Day of Encouragement & Renewal

Approximately 100 people participated in our day of encouragement and renewal. This in itself was encouraging! It was a day of worship, prayer, teaching and discussion organized in partnership with Vaughan Community Church (VCC), an Eastern Han-Ca congregation.

The original plan was to meet in person and include online participation in the wake of doctrinal changes approved by General Assembly and the desire to gather after 18 months of pandemic restrictions. However, ongoing uncertainty over COVID-19 prompted us shift to an entirely online event.

The main speaker and the workshop leaders delivered their presentations online, while worship and hosting were done from VCC, whose session financed the event.

The worship, teaching and workshop presentations were recorded and available for viewing on RF's YouTube channel. The main speaker, worship and greetings from **Rev. Dr. Dan Scott**, the moderator of the PCC are in the main video. Each workshop is presented on its own.

Keynote speaker was **Rev. Dr. Dale Woods**, general presbyter for the Presbytery of Westminster and former principal of Presbyterian College Montreal. His presentation, "Six Stages of Faith," was an exploration of personal levels or experiences of faith throughout life. Dale's presentation was augmented



**ABOVE: Dale Woods presented from Vancouver.**



**LEFT: Ken Michell led worship at Vaughan Community Church in Toronto.**

"Salt and Light: church court strategies post-Remits 'B' and 'C' – pragmatic ways to uphold the Scriptures and the Book of Forms."

**Rev. Doug Cameron and Rev. Cathi Cameron:** "Grieving to live – many of us need to engage the loss in order to regain vitality to minister."

**Rev. Dr. Esther Acolatse**, Professor of Pastoral Theology and Intercultural Studies, Knox College, Toronto: "Recovering the joy – many of us are feeling beaten down, so how do we rekindle the hope?"

by video clips, music and small-group discussion.

We were similarly blessed with six gifted workshop leaders.

**Kristy Short** of Alpha Canada: "Engaging evangelism in a COVID world, which has been turned upside down."

**Rev. Dr. Christine O'Reilly:**

See **LIVING HOPE Page 5**

# A Day of Encouragement & Renewal

Continued from Page 4

Youth pastors **Shane Davis** from Lakeshore St. Andrew's, Windsor Ontario and **Jon Dykeman** from St. Andrew's, Moncton: "Youth/young adult ministry – how to engage and encourage."

**Cory McKenna** of The Cross Current: "Whither our culture – how do we walk as followers of Christ in an increasingly secular world?"

Here's some participant feedback:

*"The conference was excellent. I enjoyed it all and was blessed."*

*"The presentations were excellent, needed and on target."*

*"Opening worship a good start to the day. Dale: really inspired by this and look forward to reviewing his slides. Was assigned to Christine O'Reilly's workshop and found her insights very helpful."*

*"Thanks so much to you, the organizing team, and Vaughn Community Church for a wonderful day of encouragement yesterday. It was good to gather together with other PCC folk on the more traditional side of the denomination, to know that we are not alone in the struggle within our denomination."*

*"The enthusiasm of Kristy Short was contagious!"*



**ABOVE:** Joo Hyun Chung of Vaughn Community Church, left, and Rev. Jinsook Khang, associate pastor at VCC, were busy behind the scenes.

**LEFT:** Rev. John Park, a member of the RF board, was our tech host.

*"Whither our Culture workshop was a very good presentation in that it helped open our eyes to the challenges of sharing the gospel in our culture today."*

*"It was wonderful. The entire event was excellent in every way. I feel encouraged and strengthened. Thank you!"*

*"This was a great day. Yes do this again."*

*"All portions of the opening worship were inspiring. It was good to have the moderator deliver remarks and the laying of hands and prayer for him were most appropriate."*

*"Really liked the leader for the worship - excellent song choices - really felt drawn into meaningful worship - thank you so much! Should we do something like this again? Definitely - the coast to coast attendance is very good."*

Our next large gathering will likely be our annual general meeting and Renewal Day on April 30, 2022.

As well, we are tentatively planning an event for pastors only in the autumn of 2022. Details to be decided.

# Lessons from Squirrel Land

Continued from Page 3

We think, we philosophize, we seek order and an understanding of purpose. We advance in our knowledge of the universe, the planet, the use of technology and understanding of human nature.

Despite the differences between humans and squirrels, I suggest that we can learn something from our furry friends, whose scurried lives are vibrant reminders of the following facts:

1. God has a purpose and plan for us, which must be sought, understood and followed if we are to survive and thrive.
2. It's necessary to take immediate action to protect against predators.
3. Stock up for dormant seasons.
4. God provides convenient tree trunk hollows and underground spaces to live, sleep and grow – protected from elements and predators.
5. There is absolutely nothing we can do to change the seasons or the larger culture of change around us.

It's that fifth point which is most important. We can do nothing, apparently, to prevent the culture from invading the courts of the church. We can only carry and seek the unchanging will of God and be the true, authentic church. We can anchor ourselves in Christ.

(Of course, on this note, we must constantly be aware of the sin of pride. We must always be humble and admit that we are fallen and there is darkness in each one of us. We are called to exhibit grace and speak what appears clearly to be the truth but to do so with love more than conviction.)

What does all of this mean for us?

Cue the squirrel.

1. Refuse to allow any climate or predator to get in the way of what God wants us to do. Point no fingers at each other. Rather, point to Christ -- crucified, risen, His Spirit with us. Point to the accuracy and reliability of Scripture.
2. Protect against the enemy, whose aim is to steal what faith we have and to kill. Like squirrels who flock together, we offer pastoral care to all those who are weathering this season of change.

**T**he soul of the institution, as a spiritual representation of Christ, went down with a single word during General Assembly: “carried.”

3. Gather the spiritual fuel we require – via prayer, mutual care, submission and study – to carry out our missions. Keep active and focused on the essential for spiritual survival.

4. Create places of safety in the midst of the culture. Since 1983, the Renewal Fellowship has strived to promote and protect orthodoxy,

but the spiritual forces which sought change were too strong. The soul of the institution, as a spiritual representation of Christ, went down with a single word during General Assembly: “carried.” Now, we seek to create smaller, more local, places of safety, such as a presbytery or congregation which adheres to scriptural integrity. Stay 'n pray, distance or depart – it doesn't matter.

5. Work according to the season. Pray early and often.

If all of this sounds a lot like what we should be doing anyway, you're probably right.

Carry on, like the squirrel.

Cultures change, but Jesus Christ is the same, yesterday, today and forever.

# Anglican renewal

*Renewal groups can be found in many denominations. From time to time, we will take a look at others who adhere to the authority of scripture and resist bringing secular values into theology.*

**By Rev. Andy Cornell**  
Executive Director

“Gone by 2040?” The stark headline in the January 2020 Anglican Journal was an attention grabber, pointing to the grim conclusion of a new church study which showed that at the current rate of decline – deaths and departures not being matched by birth or conversions – the Anglican Church in Canada (ACC) will actually run out of members in 20 years.

Although dismissed by some observers, the study’s author – an Anglican priest with a Ph.D in sociology – pointed to “five different methodologies that pointed to the same result.”

The finding came as no surprise to the denomination’s spiritual leader, Archbishop Linda Nicholls, who described it as “a wake-up call” that should lead to action.

Time, of course, will tell.

But while the ACC is in precipitous decline in general, it’s not across the board. In the Diocese of the Arctic, the church is growing, the Journal noted. Arctic Bishop David Parsons cited various reasons, but atop the list was his belief that Arctic parishes adhere to biblical authority. “We’re Bible-believing Christians,” he said.

In October 2020, Arctic Fire was launched. It describes itself as “A Vision To Inspire Bless & Encourage People. A Call To Pray & Turn to the LORD Jesus A Hope For a Spiritual Awakening Across Canada. An Action To Bring Arctic Mission Teams To Southern Communities.”

It was launched not by the denomination but by Anglican Renewal Ministries, an independent grassroots group of lay and clergy volunteers which receives no financial support from the denomination. Its mission “is to offer times of refreshing so God’s people may be empowered by the Holy Spirit through teaching, equipping and fellowship in the love of Jesus. (Acts 3:19-21)”



Bringing Arctic Teams to Southern Canadian Communities to Bless, Encourage and Inspire by Seeking and Glorifying Jesus

“Are you tired? Worn out? Burned out on religion? Come to me. Get away with me and you’ll recover your life. I’ll show you how to take a real rest. Walk with me and work with me—watch how I do it. Learn the unforced rhythms of grace. I won’t lay anything heavy or ill-fitting on you. Keep company with me and you’ll learn to live freely and lightly.”

(Matthew 11:28-30, *The Message*)

ARM was founded in the 1980s by charismatic Anglicans who saw a need to renew the church in the power of the Holy Spirit. They’re cut from similar evangelical cloth as Anglican Essentials (which serves those in the ACC) and the Anglican Network in Canada (whose parishes broke from the ACC in 2005.)

Most of ARM’s member are part of the ACC and some are with the breakaway ANiC, says Rev. Canon Gene Packwood, who chairs ARM’s board of directors. Although ARM is fervently orthodox, they’re not political. They describe themselves on their Facebook page as “empowering clergy and lay church leaders to lead parishes into renewal in the power of the Holy Spirit.”

“God still moves through the Holy Spirit and the gifts of the Spirit,” the retired priest said in a recent conversation. “We present that in a winsome way. . . We pray, we hope, we dream.”

Arctic Fire, whose bold vision is under the oversight of Bishop Parsons and is sponsored by ARM, may have been launched in the wake of the grim statisti-

cal prediction of extinction, but its spiritual roots have been alive for some time. Reigniting the faith of Anglicans in southern Canada “arose out of several prophetic words over three decades,” according to Arctic’s Fire’s promotional material. “The concept is simple -- bring Arctic teams to southern Canadian Communities to bless, encourage, and inspire AND to seek and glorify Jesus through worship, testimony, ministry of the Word, and prayer. These teams will invite others to a renewed love for Jesus, our Saviour.”

ARM and Renewal Fellowship appear to have much in common theologically and missionally.

Here’s the exciting part:

“We will invite other denominational renewal ministries and various intercessory networks to be part of this vision. So this is a call to the Church of Canada to come in a fresh way to the Lord God Almighty Jesus Christ, and by the power of the Holy Spirit Glorify God our Father!”

Invitation received.

Come, Holy Spirit.

## Board profile: Glynis Faith

You will generally find Glynis cooking, gardening, taking long walks with her friendly beagle, Skip-  
py, participating in church and communi-  
ty events, Bible stud-  
ies, prayer groups,  
reading, and finding  
creative and engaging  
ways to share the Gos-  
pel in church and  
community. She has  
three grown children  
and two grandchildren  
all living on Prince  
Edward Island.



**Rev. Glynis Faith**

Raised in a secular home, the Gospel message came to Glynis through the London family of Murray River Prince Edward Island, who not only invited her to church, but picked her and other children up each week to attend Sunday School, church, youth group and various youth and church activities throughout the year. Glynis is passionate about promoting and supporting activities that teach children and youth about God's great love for them. It was at a youth summer camp, funded by members of her

church, that she gave her life to Christ. Throughout her ministry she has witnessed youth camps playing an active role in faith formation and growth for many. These experiences motivate her to encourage children and youth to attend Christian camps, PAYS, Canadian Youth (CY) and other Christian youth fellowship opportunities. She also encourages congregations to support them prayerfully and financially.

Her prayer for the church is that we may be focused and grounded on seeking and honouring God's will for creation and all created beings. She envisions the church focusing on studying God's Word together and shining the Good News of Jesus into their worship and the communities they serve. She continues to pray for revival, seeking the guidance and strength of the Holy Spirit to ignite us in actively living out our faith together in Christian love and fellowship.

## Good things to know about Renewal

**New director:** Rev. Meridyth Robertson, of Trail British Columbia, joined the board as of October 30, 2021. Her profile will appear in a future edition.

**Let's get together:** Renewal Fellowship's next annual meeting will take place on April 30, 2022. Location/method (online or in person) TBA.

**Extraordinary support:** Over the past 24 months, Renewal has been blessed with federal grants of \$46,000 and two bequests totalling \$100,000.

**Generosity:** We have been blessed with congregational gifts that have more than compensated for underruns in individual gifts and memberships.

**Precarious existence:** Renewal now has a cash reserve of about \$91,000. Without the extraordinary support, we would be \$55,000 in the red. Regular donations (our lifeblood) are not meeting our carefully managed expenses. Please consider how your congregation can support Renewal as a mission, and how you can support Renewal through regular giving or a bequest.

**Prayer:** We publish a new prayer 365 days a year in either print or email formats. Please share prayer requests to [rfprayer@gmail.com](mailto:rfprayer@gmail.com).

**Care:** Executive Director Rev. Andy Cornell is always eager to bring words of prayer and encouragement to congregations and sessions in person or virtually. Contact him at [amcpastor1@gmail.com](mailto:amcpastor1@gmail.com).



### Board of Directors

**Lisa Baker**, Kenora, Ont.  
**Don Bartlett**, (treasurer) Scarborough, Ont.  
**Rev. Ed Charlton**, (vice-chair) Arthur, Ont.  
**Rev. Glynis Faith**, Gravenhurst, Ont.  
**Philip MacFie**, Ottawa, Ont.  
**Don MacMillan**, Gloucester, Ont.  
**Rev. John Park**, London, Ont.  
**Rev. Meridyth Robertson**, Trail, B.C.  
**Rev. Ian Shaw**, (chair) Simcoe, Ont.  
**Debbie Stimphil**, (secretary) 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

**Rev. Andy Cornell** Dresden, Ont. (executive director) call/text 226-229-1695 or email [amcpastor1@gmail.com](mailto:amcpastor1@gmail.com)

**Kyoungsoo Hwang** Simcoe, Ont. (administrative assistant) 416-233-6581 or [renewalfellowshipccc@gmail.com](mailto:renewalfellowshipccc@gmail.com)

**Rev. Robin Ross** Mission, BC (webmaster) [rross@telus.net](mailto:rross@telus.net)

**Linda Shaw** Simcoe, Ont. (prayer calendar editor) [RFPrayer@gmail.com](mailto:RFPrayer@gmail.com)

**[www.renewal-fellowship.ca](http://www.renewal-fellowship.ca)**  
**[renewalfellowshipccc@gmail.com](mailto:renewalfellowshipccc@gmail.com)**  
**Like us on Facebook**

### RF's mission

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