

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 IN PERSON or ONLINE.

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The Renewal News is a quarterly publication of Renewal Fellowship.

We welcome your stories

Orthodoxy in the PCC

Stay 'n Pray, Depart or Discerning?

By **Andy Cornell**
RF Executive Director

It's a typical Sunday morning in my small-town Presbyterian congregation and I'm doing what I usually do. I'm preaching the Gospel. My messages are based on a verse-by-verse journey through entire books or letters from the Bible. Each week, we take 1-2 verses. We're currently half way through Colossians, which we started in May. Once we're done, on to another one. It's my way of honouring the entire content and message of scripture. I don't disregard or reinterpret difficult passages to satisfy what some itching ears, including mine, want to hear.

The Good News is there in every message. But it's always prefaced by some uncomfortable truths: we are sin-

ners, no amount of social justice will atone for it, everything we have (our planet and our bodies) are to be used for God's glory not our pleasure. It's a very traditional and orthodox reading. Sometimes, when called by The Holy Spirit, I point to how The Presbyterian Church in Canada, and some other denominations, have lost the anchor and are drifting theologically.

Don't assume that my entire congregation is in complete agreement with my narrow (and I believe, correct) understanding of scripture. I look out at souls who represent a wide spectrum of thinking. While many are on the same page as me, quite a few have no issue with redefining marriage to include same-sex couples. With that in mind, I take great care to speak the truth in love.

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Many reasons to be thankful

By **Deb Stimphil**
RF Board Chairperson

At this time of year, I always want to thank the people that have meant something special in the past year. I want to thank, on behalf of the Board of Renewal Fellowship, all our wonderful supporters. You are very special to the Renewal Fellowship. This year at Renewal Fellowship we have much to be thankful for. Our focus this past year was on

Prayer, Listening and Supporting each other. We did this in many ways this year. There is our daily Prayer Calendar. At our Renewal Day we heard great encouragement from Stephen Farris, a past moderator of General Assembly and visiting professor of preaching at Knox College. Andy Cornell ran several Renewal Cafes where people could talk about how they were feeling and realize they were not alone.

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State of orthodoxy in the PCC

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That wasn't always the case. During a small-group discussion several years ago on the issue of sexuality, someone pointed out that the traditional position was being pushed. Point made. Other than that, no one has said a word. And to my knowledge, no one has departed over my adherence to traditional Gospel truth.

As long as no one's pressuring or attempting to force me to adopt a different theology, I will continue to do wh

at I'm doing. I will continue to shine the light, not only in my congregation but in my presbytery, where I am the only called minister who is not in support of the PCC's parallel definitions of marriage. My witness to the entire denomination, via The Renewal Fellowship, continues as a logical extension.

I'm not alone. Regardless of the theological flavour of our congregations, we are the **Stay 'n Pray** group.

Or, as Rev. Meridyth Robertson of First Presbyterian in Trail B.C. puts it: "Staying, and praying, praying, praying."

We are only part of the family. Among those who adhere to Reformed orthodoxy are those who are **Planning to Depart**. A few have a plan in place while most are still figuring out a way. Some who have already found **New Pasture**. And a final group, **Discerning**, isn't completely sure where they will be in five years.

No matter where they are or will find themselves down the road, they have two things in common – their passion for Biblical orthodoxy over cultural accommodation and

their desire to remain friends.

Hence this essay – an attempt to provide a view of the landscape so we don't lose sight of one another. Due to space limitations in the printed edition, some responses have been abbreviated. The full text can be found on our website: renewal-fellowship.ca.

First, a glimpse at those who have already departed.

Living Stones – A Movement of Reformed Churches in Canada, is the official legal name of an association of those called to leave the PCC.

Here's a portrait of Living Stones in their own words. I recently did a written Q&A with Rev. Shannon Bell, who speaks for them.

Q – Let's put some numbers on this. What can you say about the number of ministers or congregations represented?

A – It is difficult to actually put numbers on Living Stones in many ways. People are interested in what we are doing and becoming but it doesn't mean that everyone involved is definitely on a part to departure. We have a monthly town hall meeting on Zoom to pray, share and reflect together. I can say that at the beginning of June 2022 we had about 100 people on our mailing list. After the GA, by the beginning of July, that jumped to over 150 and it continues to grow.

We currently have seven pastors as officially received into Living Stones, one congregation (the Cariboo) and one non-congregational

ministry. There are others who are exploring legal possibilities to deal with assets who will be joining us in the coming months. We know of a number of congregations who are at various stages of this process. There are also many other congregations who are still discerning God's call in the current situation.

Q – Your website (livingstoneschurches.ca) says much about what you believe. What about history?

A – After the GA 2019, a few people saw the likelihood that if the PCC continued on its trajectory there would be people and congregations who would feel the need to leave. These folks formed Ancient

Hope to try to create a landing place so that those who left wouldn't be scattered to the wind but could form the basis of a new movement of ministry. . . . Ancient Hope first looked at existing denominations to see if there would

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be a good fit. They studied and interviewed a number but in each case found significant areas of concern, whether theological (such as the ordination of women) or practical (such as cross-border CRA issues). In the end it was felt that the best fit would be to align in some way with ECO: A Covenant Order of Evangelical Presbyterians in the U.S. Ancient Hope developed a relationship with the leadership in ECO and benefited from the experience of their move from the PCUSA to where they are now. ECO offered training and courses for PCC folks in visioning and other areas.

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A total of 45 pastors gathered at Queen of Apostles Renewal Centre in Mississauga Nov. 7-9, 2022

PCC Pastor Retreat

Forty five pastors gathered over three days and two nights for Come to Me, a Retreat for PCC Pastors on Nov. 7-9, 2022. Organized by The Renewal Fellowship and co-sponsored by Vaughan Community Church, it was an opportunity for many to gather face-to-face after more than two years of pandemic separation and online gatherings.

Liz Honeyford, of Healing Care Canada, was our spiritual guide, with additional talks from Chris Little and Sean Howard. Christine O'Reilly and Peter Bush led worship. It was more about cultivating peace and rest than about teaching.

The gathering, held at Queen of Apostles Renewal Centre in Mississauga, was completely free of charge. Vaughan Community Church covered more than half of the cost, with RF and several donors providing the balance. Because of this generosity, we ended with a significant surplus – all of which will be applied to a future pastor retreat.

Our hope and prayer was that the retreat be an opportunity for pastors to share burdens with kindred souls, to grieve and lament what's been lost (relationally and theologically in the

PCC), to talk face to face with colleagues and to be in touch with God's Holy love. We told pastors to "expect worship, prayer, words of encouragement, discussion, times of silence and listening ears. All with a solid scriptural foundation. The goal is to open the door for renewal, peace and shalom."

How did we do? We asked participants.

“Honestly speaking, I did not expect something special from this retreat. I was wrong. It was one of the best retreats that I had ever attended. I felt refreshed and helped in the last three days. The talk really touched the heart of many of us. One of the things stood out to me was the closeness and support from the participants. We were like a big family with different characters and talents yet we were one.” **Jonah Ho**, Montreal Chinese Presbyterian Church

“Before I attended the retreat I thought it would be just a nice time to get away and talk to other ministers in the denomination. It wasn't until I listened to Chris Little, Sean Howard and others how much I needed to let go of things that I didn't



LIZ HONEYFORD

realize had built up in me over the last while. I felt emotions taking over and I had a difficult time expressing what was happening within me. . . . I left, at the end of the retreat, feeling empty but I knew God was working in me and healing me. Since then I have found a sense of relief and now comfort as I have been able to let go and let God take over my life again.” **Barb Sargent**, Knox Wallaceburg, Ontario

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Retreat

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“It felt like a family gathering – a homecoming where transparency was welcomed and emotions embraced. It was engaging. There was an atmosphere of ease – not heavy or rushed. It was one where personal and corporate worship unite. It was rich. . . . We need to do more gathering like this to worship God. It really felt like homecoming. To God be the glory!” **Sybil Mosley**, Livingstone Montreal

“I was greatly encouraged and challenged to continue to seek the presence of the Lord Jesus first before I consider how to serve in ministry. I am so appreciative of the intentional gathering to practice and rest in the presence of the Lord with fellow Pastors. The retreat was better than a conference

as I really needed to have a place to commune with fellow minded and safe leaders whom we can share together as well. Thank you again!” **Allan Brouwer**, St. Paul’s Ingersoll, Ontario

“The retreat exceeded my expectations. The Scriptures chosen for worship were wonderful. I was still humming some of the worship songs when I returned home. The conversations with other ministers were very helpful. I left the retreat feeling recharged and at peace by the power of the Holy Spirit. This retreat made me realize that I needed this time of relaxation with God more than I thought!” **Candice Bahadoor**, Heart Lake Community Presbyterian Church, Brampton, Ontario

“I don’t know how to thank you for this divine appointment, definitely the retreat met my expectations and more. I really experienced His presence, full of peace and comfort.” **Moheb Nasr**, Lighthouse Evangelical Arabic Church, Winnipeg, Manitoba

NOTE – As of December, we are planning another retreat for November 2023. Stay tuned.



ESTHER PARK AND PYE CHEW

Renewal Fellowship’s mission is “to lead each other and The Presbyterian Church in Canada to authentic Biblical thinking, powerful Spirit-led prayer, and effective Gospel witness.”

In practical terms, we’re carrying that out two ways: leading/facilitating prayer and providing strategic pastoral care.

Renewal Café are small-group gatherings held via Zoom which are typically centred on a specific question or theme. Each Café is based on a specific scripture, has a time of devotion and opportunities for sharing, discussion and prayer. Café’s guiding verse is Hebrews 10:25 – “And let us not neglect our meeting together, as some people do, but encourage one another, especially now that the day of his return is draw-

ing near.”

Listening Ear Here is a pool of mature believers who meet online (or in person if logistics allow) with individuals who need a listening ear. It’s not therapy, counsel-

(published quarterly) under the leadership of Linda Shaw continues to find its way into the hands of believers who need encouragement and support.

Pray for GA is a dedicated campaign in the four weeks leading up to General Assembly which includes online prayer rooms praying prior to and during each session. We started

this in 2021 and it was repeated in 2022. It picks up from all the in-person prayer rooms we organized when General Assembly was held in person. We are looking forward to a return to in-person GA in 2023.

*Can we provide care or prayer?
— email us at
renewalfellowshipcc@gmail.com*

“And let us not neglect our meeting together . . . but encourage one another.”
Hebrews 10:25



ing or mentorship. It’s an effort to facilitate a community and encourage believers. It’s a ministry for the listener as well as the speaker. If you need to talk about where you’re at in your walk of faith, if you have questions or if you just need to “unpack,” we can pair you with a listener. This ministry is for adults of all ages and stages of life.

Our daily **prayer calendar**

Orthodoxy in the PCC

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After the GA 2021, ECO contacted Ancient Hope and suggested that it was the right time to develop a Steering Council to start the new movement officially. The leadership of Ancient Hope approached several people, including myself, to be on the Steering Council. Some of the council were on the Ancient Hope core team and others were new. I was asked to be the chair of the council. We began to meet in the summer of 2021 and developed five sub teams to work on various aspects of setting up a new entity. I chair the Vision Team and we also have a Doctrine Team, Polity Team, Pension & Benefits Team and Legal & Finance Team. . . . ECO has walked alongside us through the development of Living Stones. We are not officially connected in any legal way, but we will be sister denominations, sharing the journey. We are grateful for their wisdom and help and will maintain our relationship.

We see a church that is joy-filled, kingdom-focused and emphasizes the work of local expressions of the church. We believe we are taking the best of Presbyterianism and shedding the things that have bound us while standing firmly on the authority of Scripture and the Lordship of Jesus Christ, knowing that God is on the throne and the Spirit empowers and sustains us. We are excited for where God is leading us together and have a vision for planting new expressions of the church. It is a slow

process – sometimes frustratingly so – as we lay the groundwork. My heart is to be able to gather all the orphans (those who have left churches with nowhere to go) and form new bodies right away. . . . We continue to pray for the PCC. We are not recruiting for Living Stones, but realize that God calls each of us differently. We hope that every congregation will be able to set aside concerns and attachments to the material things of bank accounts and buildings in order to really hear God's call. Those things are tools in God's hands, but not the centre of ministry and mission. . . .

“ We believe we are taking the best of Presbyterianism and shedding the things that have bound us while standing firmly on the authority of Scripture and the Lordship of Jesus Christ

Q – You have one congregation and another ministry in your association. Any more in the wings?

A – There are a number along the road, but cannot be named so that it doesn't jeopardize their processes.

Q – Cariboo Presbyterian Church was the congregation you and your husband, along with Mark Carter, pastored in Presbytery of Kamloops. What is the new status of your congregation? Same name?

A – We are now Cariboo House Churches, incorporated in September 2021 and with full charitable status with the CRA since March 2022. . . . Jon, Mark and I as well as the congregation have all shifted from the PCC to LS. . . . Jon and I have received letters of standing which have been transferred to LS.

Q – How did you get to this point – ie. a brief description of the process you went through to get presbytery's approval.

A – The Presbytery of Kamloops has been supportive of the Cariboo all along. . . . The Presbytery struck a special committee tasked with finding ways to make the departure process more feasible for not only the Cariboo but other congregations who might consider departure in the future. Over the summer the session met and prayed and came up with a proposal that we brought to the Presbytery . . . The Presbytery was uncomfortable with the proposal but instead offered a solution that was much better for everyone. . . . In October, the Presbytery passed four motions:

- that the Presbytery approve a five-year renewable lease agreement between the Cariboo Presbyterian Church and the Cariboo House Churches for the building in Lac La Hache beginning October 15, 2022 for \$1/year. The ministry will pay all costs related to the building: utilities, insurance, maintenance etc. The lease is binding on any future owners of the property;
- that the Presbytery approve a similar lease for the two ministry vehicles;
- that the Presbytery release the Cariboo ministry into the care of Living Stones as of October 31, 2022; and
- that the Presbytery provide letters of standing for Jon and I as of October 31, 2022.

Q – Reaction if any from General Assembly Office or Assembly Council?

A – No negative responses. No official responses yet. We contacted Canadian Ministries and the National Indigenous Ministries Council personally to let them know from us rather than the grapevine.

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Orthodoxy

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We have greatly appreciated all the support and fellowship we have received from both entities over the years. The responses were sadness expressed graciously.

Q – How will this new entity be financially supported?

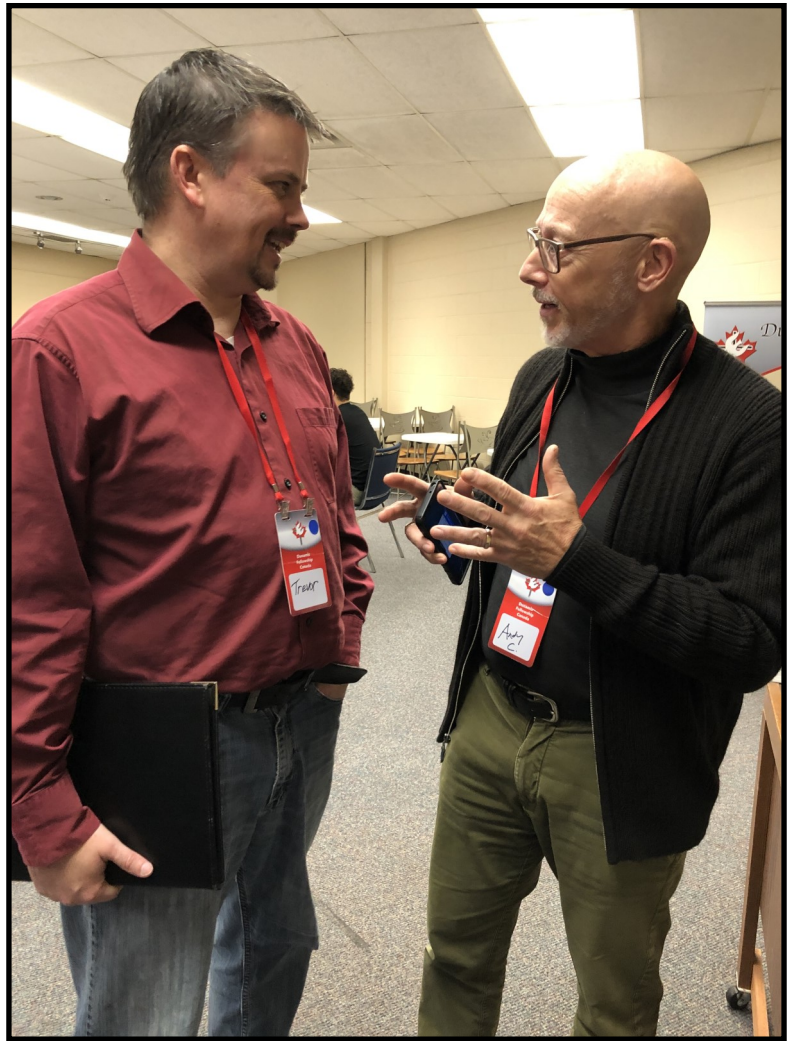
A – We are now in a new place of complete trust in God to provide for all our needs. Over the past three decades we have relied heavily on grants from the PCC and the support of individuals and congregations across the country. The grants of course stopped on Nov 1. They amounted to \$90-100,000 per year and provided all of Jon's and my stipends and expenses for our part of the ministry as well as some of Mark's stipend. As well, we have received a substantial amount of our budget from those outside the Cariboo. We realize that some of those folks may no longer wish to support us because of our theological stand and our decision to leave the PCC. So we have a huge uncertainty in the financial area. However, our God is greater than a budget bottom line and we trust and pray that God will provide for us in ways we haven't yet imagined. . . .

FaithWorks Ministries is Living Stones' non-congregational mission. We spoke with founder Rev. Glynis Faith.

Q – Tell me a bit about your journey out of the PCC.

A – Since my youth, driving between Prince Edward Island and Ontario has been a consistent part of my life. When I was young I enjoyed seeing certain landmarks year after year. My favourite was the big potato in Fredericton. In my teens I acted rather bored with it all, but there was something comforting about the familiar journey with its familiar landmarks. As an adult, with terrible navigation skills, I worried about getting lost, but soon found the route was etched in my memory. It is a long journey with lots of hills and bends in the road, and something I have learned is that it takes more than one highway to get me to my destination.

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Patti Tan Photo

RF Executive Director Andy Cornell, right, talks with Rev. Trevor Payton, Executive Director of Dunamis Fellowship Canada during their fall gathering at Kortright Presbyterian Church in Guelph on Oct. 15. Andy joined the DFC board of directors earlier this year. There's a natural connection between RF and Dunamis as we are all united in reformed orthodoxy.

On the road again

Prior to the pandemic, speaking to congregations and holding encouragement road trips was a major part of the executive director's job.

Andy's first road trip was to British Columbia in May of 2018, followed by New Brunswick in September 2019 and Alberta and Saskatchewan a few weeks later. In 2019, he logged 16,755 kilometres (by land, sea and air) to meet with ministers and congregations. In 2020, it was 222 km. In 2021 — zero.

As we emerge from the distancing, the trend thankfully appears to be reversing. His mileage so far in 2022 is 2, 218 km.

Andy is willing and able to speak to congregations within the PCC on any day of the week. It can be a Sunday service or a midweek group. He can be reached at amcpastor1@gmail.com.

Orthodoxy

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In the past few years I have questioned the path God has placed before me. Recently, I was reminded that it is sometimes necessary to take an off ramp to continue to your destination.

In my final year at seminary there was a strong indication that the PCC was bending to the social pressures regarding gender identity. This did not

sit well in my soul, and I found myself asking, “Lord, is this where I am meant to serve You?” I believe God loves and welcomes all people. I believe in

a welcoming church. I believe God’s Word is our authority and the truth in how we are to worship Him, live in truth, and serve as we are called. Despite the various attempts by some to wordsmith Scripture into an affirming text, we cannot ignore texts we are not comfortable with and redefine others to align with current social agendas. God’s Word is meant to transform us, we are not meant to transform God’s Word! What I believe was not matching up with the direction the PCC was going, so I continued to pray for guidance. Why would God call me on a path that was stepping in a direction I could not support with His Word?

Struggling for clarity, I sought the guidance of a trusted mentor and friend who advised me to consider the needs of the flock. If the shepherds leave, who will pray with and for the flock? Who will continue to preach God’s Word in

truth and love? Clearly people are divided on issues of Christian marriage for same-sex couples, as well as the ordination and leadership roles, within the church, of those professing to be part of the LGBTQI2 community. Prayer is needed. Pastoral care is needed.

So, I decided I would stay and pray. Clearly there is a need for prayer and a listening ear. Many things have happened since my decision to stay and pray. It is clear there is great division and people are being asked to take sides.

Many find themselves being pushed out of their church. Liberty of conscience seems to be fading quickly. What I have seen and heard leads me to believe that it will be impossible for the

PCC to function effectively with polar-opposite views on doctrine. . . . Just as the road signs are clear that I cannot stay on the 401 once I come to the Quebec border, the spiritual signs were telling me that I could no longer stay in the PCC if I wanted to go where God was calling me.

Writing the request for my letter of standing was a painful task, but once written and sent, I felt the weight of many things lift off my shoulders and I knew for certain I had taken the correct off ramp for the journey I was called to.

Q – What are you doing and what's the vision?

A – Today, FaithWorks Ministries is addressing the spiritual needs of older seniors by bringing consistent weekly worship into a local retirement residence. We also bring weekly Bible study into another retirement residence. The goal is to bring the church in

amongst people who are less mobile. . . . The FaithWorks discipleship groups have also begun, meeting in various locations. This model follows the pattern of Jesus using various locations and situations to teach His disciples what it means to take up your cross and follow Him, and to train them to call and lead the next generation of followers. The discipleship model is based on individual small groups gathering weekly and coming together as one group for worship monthly. . . .

God brought me into the Presbyterian Church in Canada for part of my faith journey and I pray for God’s blessings upon its congregations, ministers, courts, and its future. My prayers remain with you!

And then there are the Presbyterians who know what’s right, theologically, but they’re not sure exactly how they should respond. They are **Discerning**.

Don Bartlett, a ruling elder and a member of the Renewal Fellowship board, has been in touch with many such souls. They have been in discussion with one another for support and discernment about where to go from here. Bartlett says traditional Presbyterians find themselves in congregations with a mix of people:

- Some are strongly PCC, often lifelong and second or third generation and will never leave, regardless of PCC’s theological beliefs.
- Some, unwilling to wait for the outcome of any withdrawal process, have weakened the congregation by leaving already.
- Some are unwilling to remain in or move into a leadership position because the congregation is part of PCC.

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Orthodoxy

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- Some are willing to engage in a multi-year, secular legal fight for ownership of their congregation's assets.
- Some don't want a secular legal fight, but are willing to depart using the PCC's multi-year official process, in which a congregation re-establishes itself as a new entity and either buys its building at 50 per cent of its value or walks away with 50 per cent of the net proceeds from the sale of the building.
- Some have no interest in any delay: they want to walk away from their property and found a new church. If the congregation is not moving in this direction, they will leave the congregation.
- Most are ignoring the issue of PCC's theological beliefs. Their allegiance lies with the local congregation as it currently functions: will they stay if there is prolonged uncertainty or if the congregation cannot continue in its current building?

Each congregation has varying proportions of each group. In Bartlett's words: "It's a crazy mix of people." That's not meant as a pejorative. Rather, it's testament to the diversity of their thoughts and emotions.

"How do you know the mix within your congregation until you raise the issue?" Bartlett asks. "When you raise the issue to the congregation, you will create greater unrest, and people on both sides of the issue will be leaving until the issue is resolved. But a resolution can't begin until the issue has been raised to the congregation."

All of this is in reaction to what many see as a church that stepped

into apostasy after formally approving a definition of marriage that's at odds with scripture and gender complementarity. To agree with this new doctrine, one must ignore some parts of scripture. (It's more than just a matter of interpretation.) The issue is actually much greater than sexuality. If scripture can be ignored on one matter, then it can be disregarded for another. It's part of the larger debate between orthodoxy and progressivism which has been raging for decades.

So while this is nothing really new, the marriage issue brought it home in a very political and divisive way. Congregations are divided. As a result, Bartlett says discerning when to raise the issue within the congregation is a "terrific strain on a congregation's leadership. It's an extraordinarily tricky situation. Congregational unity is sure to be challenged."

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There can be no argument that a denomination must, at a minimum, consist of two things: a common theology and an agreed upon form of governance.

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Derreck Conrad is an active elder. He calls himself a "relatively newer Presbyterian who has no lifelong attachment to the denomination but loves the local body where he worships." Here's a glimpse into his thinking:

"It appears that, in essence, the denomination is already beginning to crumble for the following reasons. There can be no argument that a denomination must, at a minimum, consist of two things: a common theology and an agreed upon form of governance. The passage of the remits [which changed the definition of marriage and allowed the ordination of those in same-sex marriage] has exposed

and exacerbated deep differences in our understanding and practice of the first and fundamental institution created for man, which is ordained by God in His word, and by which the relationship of the believer to the Lamb is often defined; that being marriage between a man and a woman – and not further defined. . . .

"As leaders in our churches, we have many responsibilities but our primary responsibility is to obey Christ's Great Commission which includes the great imperative in it, which says, '....teaching them to observe all that I commanded you' – with all that implies. . . .

"My grasp of theology is tenuous but I am certain of one thing, if we no longer agree on the inerrancy and authority of the complete revelation then we are already a house divided and unless there is repentance for hardness of hearts, we are in danger of acting after the manner of Rehoboam."

Back to **Stay 'n Pray**. It's also a crazy mix. Some haven't even seriously thought about leaving. Some have, but decided against it because they're too close to retirement, they're not feeling the spiritual nudge or they're just not seeing a financially viable way of departing. That last issue is huge. While some in the PCC see the offer to purchase their buildings at 50 per cent of their value as gracious (given the fact that this process didn't exist before) others see great insult in taking out a huge mortgage for something they've already paid for and maintained.

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Orthodoxy

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Walking away and taking 50 per cent of the net proceeds from the sale of their building might be attractive to those who have no attachment to their building, but not many people appear to be of that mindset. The requirement that 80 per cent congregational support is required in two separate votes for departure is a non starter for many, including the session at St. Paul's in Leaskdale, Ontario. They're stay'n pray, says their lead pastor, Rev. Andrew Allison. What that will look like remains to be seen.

"We are working at trying to determine what assignment and alignment we have with the denomination and also what presence we intend to have in our staying. Will we try to influence directly or basically function as Congregationalists?"

They'll have plenty of company with that approach. There's been a dramatic increase in the number of congregations which give little or nothing to the support of the denomination via Presbyterians Shar-

ing. In 2021, 29 congregations with \$100,000-plus budgets gave nothing; several had million dollar budgets.

Valleyview Community Church in Calgary will remain because they see no viable option. Rev. Grant Gunnink is their minister.

"I and our leadership at Valleyview are of the stance that if there was a gracious way to exit from the PCC we would likely take advantage of it. . . . We are not willing to leave and surrender our assets and our property (which we see as a beach-head in our surrounding community) . . . for the benefit of a denomination that will use them to implement the unbiblical revisionist agenda. Our relationship with our Presbytery is decent however, and we anticipate being able to continue to minister as a Biblical orthodox congregation at a comfortable arm's length respectful relationship with them."

Respect is key. And not only within the denomination. There's a mutual respect within orthodoxy I find encouraging. It was evident at the PCC Pastor's Retreat in November, which was widely representative of our diversity.

Allison sums it up: "I realize this is a tough decision for everyone and people who love Jesus just as

much or even more than I do will come to a different conclusion that I will."

The remnant mindset — of being light in a dark place — is a viable option for many. That's the ethos of Cruxifusion, the network of evangelical ministers within the United Church of Canada which exists as a vibrant witness in a denomination which does not require its ministers to hold any creed or doctrine. Scores of believers departed the UCC in a wave during the 1990s. Many severed all ties with those they left behind.

Bell, who is on the front lines of departure from the PCC, does not want that to happen here. She has gone out of her way to reach out to those who have no thought of leaving.

"We love our brothers and sisters in the PCC. We don't want this move to disrupt relationships. We hope that we can be of encouragement to others whether they are on a path to departure or to staying in the PCC. We are on an adventure with God! Join us whether in prayer, partnership or just keeping in touch!"

We welcome your feedback.
renewalfellowshippcc@gmail.com.

Thanks

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We sponsored Pray for GA — A time of prayer, in the four weeks leading up to General Assembly, and before and during each sederunt. There was a six-week online book study on the book "Prayer-does it make a difference" written by Philip Yancey. We started Listening Ear Here, which paired people with an individual who would listen and offer support to the other person in an attempt to facilitate a community and encourage believers. Then there was "Come to Me, a Retreat for PCC Pastors." It was a great suc-

cess by all accounts.

Renewal Fellowship could not have done any of these things without your support. Whether your support is prayer, financial or participatory — our supporters make the Renewal Fellowship continue to be a presence for orthodoxy in the Presbyterian Church in Canada. A shining light for the people that are staying true to the traditional views of the Christian Church. You help us live out our Mission: To lead each other and the Presbyterian Church in Canada to authentic Biblical thinking, powerful Spirit-led prayer and effective Gospel witness.

I wish each of you a very Merry Christmas and God's blessing in the New Year.



Renewal Day '23

DATE: Saturday, MARCH 25, 2023

LOCATION: St. Andrew's Presbyterian Church, Welland, Ontario

SPEAKER: To be announced.

FORMAT: In person with a livestream option.

This will be our first in-person Renewal Day and Annual General Meeting since 2019. It's badly needed and long overdue. Details to come!



RF Executive Director Andy Cornell brought the Word to St. Andrew's in Parry Sound, Ontario on Sunday, Oct. 16, 2022. It was his first appearance before a congregation in more than three years. Post-pandemic reopenings might see a return to more road trips. Wait and see!



Board of Directors

Lisa Baker, Kenora, Ont.

Don Bartlett, (treasurer) Scarborough, Ont.

Pastor Ronda Bosch, Regina, Sask.

Rev. Ed Charlton, Arthur, Ont.

Rev. Sandy Copland Dufour, Hamilton, Ont.

Rev. Glynis Faith, Gravenhurst, Ont.

Philip MacFie, Ottawa, Ont.

Don MacMillan, Gloucester, Ont.

Rev. Jinsil Park, Winnipeg, Man.

Rev. Meridyth Robertson, Trail, B.C.

Rev. Ian Shaw, (vice chair) Simcoe, Ont.

Debbie Stimpfil, (chair) Welland, Ont.

Members normally serve for two terms of three years each (six years total). 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

Kyoungsoo Hwang Simcoe, Ont. (administrative assistant) 416-233-6581 or renewalfellowshipccc@gmail.com

Rev. Robin Ross Mission, BC (webmaster) rross@telus.net

Linda Shaw Simcoe, Ont. (prayer calendar editor) RFPrayer@gmail.com

www.renewal-fellowship.ca

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