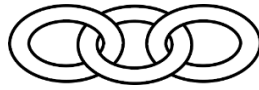


## The Link

### A Presbytery of London Newsletter for Sessions & Congregations



**What is the Presbytery?** Instead of being governed by individuals, the Presbyterian Church in Canada is governed by groups of people that are called courts. The presbytery is one of the courts of the church (along with sessions, synods and General Assembly). The Presbytery is made up of one minister and one elder (called the representative elder) from each church within a geographic bounds. The Presbytery of London includes all of the Presbyterian churches in London, and extends south to Port Stanley, east to Dorchester, and west to Dutton and just outside of Mount Brydges. The Presbytery meets on the 2<sup>nd</sup> Tuesday of September, October, November, January, February, March, April, May and June at 7pm.

**So... what do we do?? The presbytery has three main roles and we are organized into three teams to do this work.**



The Business Team – deals with matters related to other courts of the church; manages any funds of the court, collects police records checks for clergy and Leading with Care documents for churches, ensures that the Presbytery Lending Fund, the Refugee Committee and a Sexual Abuse and Harassment Team are functioning.

The Ministry Team – interviews students for ministry, provides a pulpit supply list, interviews candidates to serve as lay preachers, works with the congregation team to aid congregations/clergy during times of transition or difficulty.

The Congregation Team – appoints interim moderators, appoints visitation teams, works with the ministry team to aid congregations/clergy during times of transition or difficulty.

**How do I learn more about the Presbytery of London?** Go to our website!



[www.presbylondon.ca](http://www.presbylondon.ca), ask your rep elder or your minister!

**What is “The Link”?** This is a new “newsletter” that the Presbytery is sending out after each meeting to let Sessions (and congregations) know about decisions made at our monthly meetings.

## What Happened at the September 2021 meeting of the Presbytery??

A presentation was made from the Presbyterian Church Heritage Centre. The Centre has moved to a former Presbyterian Church that is about 20 minutes north and west of London. The Centre is gratefully accepting donations, and hopes to be functioning and ready to welcome visitors in 12 months or so.

Rev. Mavis Currie and Rev. Shelly Butterfield Kocis finished their term as co-



moderators of the Presbytery of London. Rev. Andrew Thompson, the minister of Knox-St. Andrew's Presbyterian Church, Dutton was elected as the Moderator of the Presbytery for the 2021-2022 year. The moderator elect (to serve in 2022-2023) is Richard Cote, representative elder from Chalmers Presbyterian Church in London.

**Moderator of Presbytery: Rev. Andrew Thompson**

The court approved a grant application to the national church for St. James Presbyterian Church, North Yarmouth.

Gord Brown, the student minister from St. James Presbyterian Church, North Yarmouth will be ordained on September 19<sup>th</sup> and will be inducted as half time minister of that church in the next month.

Rev. Jim Patterson has begun his work as "General Presbyter". The General Presbyter (G.P.) is a new half time position in the court. Jim will serve as a minister overseeing a number of smaller churches who do not have the funds to call a full time or a half time minister on their own. Jim will be arranging pulpit supply, leading Session meetings, and serving as a conduit for these churches with the presbytery. This position allows for more consistent leadership for these communities of faith: St. John's, Port Stanley, Knox, Fingal, Crinan and Largie churches, and South Nissouri. This position also ensures that every clergy in the presbytery is NOT serving as an interim moderator. Jim has been a member of the Presbytery of London for a number of years, and we are grateful for his leadership in this new role.

**Covid 19 and Re-Openings of Sanctuaries:** A reminder that decisions regarding the opening of sanctuaries and return to public worship is a decision for individual sessions. Public Health is advising that contact tracing must be done, masks must be worn, congregational singing should be minimized, and social distancing maintained. Some churches have already begun having in person worship services, some are still online, others are hoping to transition to in person services in the next month or two. We continue to pray for all of our elders as they make decisions faithfully for the good of the church and Christ's kingdom.

