

# The Link – March 2022

## A Presbytery of London Newsletter for Sessions & Congregations

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The Presbytery of London met over zoom on Tuesday March 8<sup>th</sup>, 2022. Below is a brief summary of items discussed at the meeting. The meeting was opened with prayer and a short worship service was led by Rev. Deb Stanbury, from ARISE Ministries. ARISE Ministries empowers individuals involved in the sex trade to reclaim their lives, by offering them outreach, case management and spiritual care. ARISE ministries receives funding from Presbyterian Sharing.

### News from the Presbytery!

**Rev. Dr. David Clark, minister at New St. James Church**, London had an article published in the journal, “Studies in Christian – Jewish Relations.” His article is entitled: “Dietrich Bonhoeffer, Prayerbook of the Bible, and the Reichsschrifttumskammer (RSK): Reassessing the Historical Record.”



**Coldest Night of the Year Walk:** A team from Chalmers and St. Lawrence Churches raised funds with a walk in February for the Coldest Night of the Year. Funds were raised for the Kenora Fellowship. Over \$2900 was raised.

**The DaySpring Fund** – This Fund is accessible to all congregations within the presbytery of London. It is a fund designated for the renewal of congregations or the establishment of new congregations. It can be used to augment education for clergy and elders, or provide funding for projects related to congregational renewal. For more information about this fund, contact the clerk of presbytery. It should be noted that the congregation can only access this fund once in a 12 month period. Applications must be sent in writing to the clerk of presbytery.

**New Team to Review Financial records at year ends** – Do you have a good understanding of financial records? The presbytery is seeking to compile a small team to assist congregations who need an arm’s length review of their books at year end and do not have anyone within their own congregation who can complete this function. This team would primarily function in January – February of each year.



**Space needed:** Does your church have room to store 1 - 2 drawer filing cabinet and four bank boxes? The presbytery of London does not have a building, and so we are looking for a space to store these items. Contact the clerk of presbytery, if your church can help!

**New Leadership at Trinity Church in North London** – A contract with a part time leader (lay missionary with specialized training) was approved. Welcome, Nick Metivier!

**Candidates for Ministry** – There are several candidates for ordination this spring. The presbytery is responsible to interview these individuals and make recommendations to the presbytery.



**Congregational Visit** – This congregation team of the presbytery will be arranging visits to several churches in the presbytery this year. These are friendly check in visits to allow congregations to reflect on their work and ensure there are open lines of communication between the presbytery and congregations.

**The General Presbyter:** Rev. Jim Patterson gave a full report on his work in the new position of General Presbyter. The General Presbyter is co-ordinating worship leadership and pastoral care at several of the churches in our presbytery who are not in a position to call a minister.

**The Presbytery of London Refugee Committee:** This committee is looking for 2-3 new members. A family of 7 people in Syria are waiting to be settled. During the course of the waiting period, two people in the family passed away (one from Covid, one from a heart condition.) The committee is hopeful that this family will be able to be settled in the next year. The committee is also providing support to a couple from Eritrea. There is some discussion around whether the committee should also be providing refuge to a family from Ukraine.

### **Presbyterian World Service and Development Relief for Ukraine**

*The PCC joins in prayer for the people in Ukraine as they face war, danger and uncertainty. The Canadian Foodgrains Bank and ACT Alliance are receiving donations through Presbyterian World Service & Development to respond to the escalating situation in Ukraine. Donations are accepted through Presbyterian World Service and Development.*

God of the Powers, and  
Maker of all creation;  
God of justice, and  
Lover and Maker of peace,  
we are distressed by the violence and the threats of violence and destruction in  
the world,  
and especially by acts of war and brutality that people experience in Ukraine.  
In solidarity with them, we pray for those  
who are suffering and in danger,  
who live in fear and anxiety,  
who fear what tomorrow will bring,  
who are anxious for their lives and the lives of those they love and care for, and  
who mourn the dead.  
We pray that  
those with power over war  
will lay down weapons, and that  
those who have power to accomplish peace  
will have wisdom and compassion.  
God of Grace, the  
Giver of Life, send your  
Comforter, the Spirit of Truth,  
who is everywhere present and fills all things,  
to sustain the hope of all those who seek justice and peace and  
to inspire the leaders of nations to do what is right.  
Glory to you, O God,  
Creator, Christ and Holy Spirit,  
now and forever;  
in the strong name of Jesus, the Prince of Peace, we pray.  
Amen.

