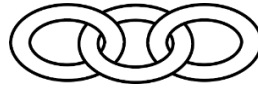


The Link – February 2022

A Presbytery of London Newsletter for Sessions & Congregations

www.presbylondon.ca



The Presbytery of London met over zoom on Tuesday February 8th, 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. Theresa McDonald Lee, the Executive Director of Camp Kintail. Camp Kintail is “cautiously optimistic” that residential camp will be offered for children and youth this summer. Camp Kintail’s monthly dinners will resume in March.



New Minister for Oakridge Presbyterian Church! Visitors from Oakridge Presbyterian church attended the presbytery meeting to speak in favour of a call to Rev. Dr. Tim Archibald. Oakridge Church was declared vacant in early 2021. Through the last year, this church continued to worship under the leadership of Rev. Michael Stol, and the search committee for a new minister worked diligently to prepare a congregational profile and to interview potential candidates. Nine profiles were reviewed, four candidates were interviewed. Rev. Dr. Tim Archibald is an experienced clergyperson within the Presbyterian Church in Canada. He is currently serving at St. Andrew’s Presbyterian Church in southwest Calgary. The call to Rev. Dr. Archibald will now be sent to the presbytery of Calgary MacLeod for their approval.



Funds and Accounts within the Presbytery of London

The treasurer of presbytery reminded the court of the various funds and accounts of the presbytery of London. Below is a brief summary:

The General Account is used to cover general and budgeted expenses with the presbytery.

The Dayspring Fund was established following the sale of DaySpring Presbyterian Church in London. This fund is to be used to support the establishment of new congregations or the renewal of established congregations.

The Dr. Daniel Stalker Memorial Fund is a fund that was established to provide financial support for students for the ministry within the presbytery.

The Discretionary Fund – is used to cover expenses that were not included in the yearly budget.



There were several referrals from the national church for Sessions to consider:

Presbyteries and Session are invited to review the Study Guide “Living in God’s Mission Today”.

Sessions are invited to review the guidelines to extend calls to candidates who identify as LGBTQI.

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 is discussing congregational visits to churches as the pandemic continues.

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.

Vacancies: The following churches are currently in the process of discerning a call to a new minister or half time stated supply: Westmount, Trinity, St. Lawrence, Oakridge. The interim moderators of each church was given an opportunity to share their progress.

DID YOU
KNOW



Did you know???? There are two kinds of elders within the Presbyterian Church in Canada: **teaching elders** and **ruling elders**. **Teaching elders** are ministers who convene or “moderate” meetings of session. Session (or Kirk Session) is the name given to the group of elders in each congregation. **Ruling elders** are elected by the congregation and ordained by God through the minister. They must be church members in good and regular standing and “be an example to the believers in speech, conduct, love, faith and

purity.” (I Timothy 4:12)

A person of any age who possesses the gifts of eldership and feels called by God to be an elder may be considered for this position within the church. Elders are called and ordained for life. In some congregations, they serve for life as session members. Other congregations have term service eldership where elders are active for 6 year terms.

What are the Responsibilities of the Session?

- **Provide Leadership**– enable the congregation to serve and worship Christ to the best of their ability
- **Oversee**– all groups and organizations within the church
- **Set**– the hour and form of worship
- **Administer** – and support a program of Christian education
- **Regularly**– review the membership roll
- **Inform**– the congregation of the work of the church
- **Control**– the use of the church building
- **Maintain**– Pastoral Care
- **Admit**– people into church membership
- **Encourage**– Stewardship and Mission
- **Arrange**– assistance for the poor

Presbytery is made up of an equal number of teaching and ruling elders. We meet once a month, in September, October, November, and January – June.

Each congregation sends a ruling elder and a teaching elder to presbytery meetings. The ruling elder is responsible to report on a monthly basis to their session on the work of the presbytery.