

The Link – September 2022

A Presbytery of London Newsletter for Sessions & Congregations

www.presbylondon.ca



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 2nd Tuesday of September, October, November, January, February, March, April, May and June at 7pm. During the upcoming year, we will be meeting via zoom and in person – depending on weather and the length of the meeting.

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.

What Happened at the September 2022 meeting of the Presbytery?

The meeting opened with communion and worship led by Rev. Andrew Thompson, past moderator, and Rev. Keith McKee, minister of St. George's Church.

The new moderator, Richard Cote, an elder from Chalmers Presbyterian Church was installed! The sympathy of the congregation was extended to Rev. John Bannerman and his wife, Laurie Spence Bannerman following the death of Laurie's father.

A concern was raised by one congregation within our presbytery regarding the work of the presbytery during a vacancy. This letter was read at the meeting and then discussed. It was noted that a congregation can not proceed with the process of calling a minister without an interim moderator in place.

The treasurer and the clerk reviewed the finances and the correspondence of the court.

The exit review team for Chalmers Presbyterian Church was presented. Rev. John Bannerman, the retiring minister, and the congregation of Chalmers were commended for their faithful ministry. It was recommended and passed that the congregation begin the process toward calling a minister.

Meet the Moderator!



Richard Cote has served as an elder in the Presbyterian Church in Canada for seven years. He is a member and an active elder at Chalmers Presbyterian Church.

Rich and his wife Gillian are the parents of two young adults. Rich's 'day job' is as a Data Analyst at Lubrico Warranty. Rich is passionate about youth ministry and has been a regular rider in the Presbyterian World Service and Development's Ride for Refuge every fall. He enjoys many sports including soccer, softball, swimming and cycling. Interesting fact! Rich donates platelets every 2 weeks as his way of supporting the health system during these stressing Covid times!

New Minister to Westmount Church, London! Westmount is excited to be welcoming a new minister, Rev. Tim Raeburn -Gibson this month! Welcome Tim! Westmount, you will be in our prayers as you begin this next important chapter in your church's life and ministry.

Upcoming Presbytery Event!

Elder Training – September 24th, 2022 at Knox-St. Andrew's, Dutton! This event was organized by the General Presbyter, Rev. Jim Patterson.

Other News from the September meeting

A letter of concern was read from a church in the midst of a vacancy. The issue was discussed, and it was decided that the new interim moderator would address the issues in the letter and report back to the presbytery.

The Presbyterian Refugee Committee is welcoming a new refugee family from Ukraine this fall. We are grateful to donations to this work from the churches in our presbytery. More information to come! The sympathy of the presbytery is extended to the Bannerman family, following the death of Rev. John Bannerman's father-in-law.

How do I learn more about the Presbytery of London? Go to our website! www.presbylondon.ca,



ask your rep elder or your minister!

Please pray for....

- The Sessions of all of the churches in our presbytery as they make plans to rebuild our churches.
- The ministers who serve our churches
- Our new moderator of Presbytery, Richard Cote
- Congregations who are in the midst of vacancies and looking for a minister