

The Link – September 2023

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.

Meet the Moderator!



Every year, the presbytery elects a moderator for our meetings. The moderator can be an elder or a minister. The moderator represents the presbytery at functions like ordinations and inductions. The moderator's main role, however, is to chair the monthly meetings of the presbytery. The moderator for the 2023-24 year is Rev. Dr. David Clark.

The Rev. Dr. David Clark (Ph.D.) was inducted as the minister of New St. James Presbyterian Church in 2020. He previously served at Calvin Presbyterian Church (North Bay) and at St. David's Presbyterian Church (Campbellville). He serves also as a Unit Chaplain in the Canadian Army (Primary Reserve).

Dr. Clark is a member of the Board of Governors of the Presbyterian College (Montreal). He serves on the Committee on Ethics, Religion, and the Holocaust at the United States Holocaust Memorial Museum in Washington, D.C.

He is married and loves spending time with his wife and children.

Meet the Clerk!

The clerk of Presbytery is Carrie Thornton. Carrie has served as clerk for the past ___ years. A life-long Presbyterian, Carrie lives in London and worships at _____. The role of the clerk is to take accurate minutes of all of our meetings, and to correspond on behalf of the court. The clerk attends every presbytery meeting as well as the Business Team meetings. The clerk receives an honorarium for this important work. Please note that Carrie has full time work outside of her presbytery responsibilities. Therefore, she requests that she be contacted **outside** of the regular working hours of the week.

Meet the Treasurer!

Lu Brule is the treasurer for the Presbytery of London. Lu has served as treasurer for the past 14 years. A retired Certified Public Accountant, Lu lives west of London and worships at Glencoe Presbyterian Church, where he serves as an elder. The treasurer is responsible to track the funds of the presbytery, and to regularly report to the court. He attends every presbytery meeting, as well as the Business Team meetings. The treasurer receives an honorarium for this important work. Lu has also been a valuable resource to congregations as they seek to ensure that their finances are in good order, and that proper procedures are followed.

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 for fall activities and programs.
- The ministers who serve our churches
- Our new moderator of Presbytery, Rev. Dr. David Clark.
- Rev. Andrew Thompson, as he begins his new ministry at Chalmers Presbyterian Church.
- Congregations who are looking for a minister (Burns Church, Mosa, Knox-St. Andrew's, Dutton, Trinity Community Church.)

