

Feb 2023 Session Notes

Session met via Zoom on Tuesday evening, Feb 28. The Zoom decision was taken because of the snow that morning, but the online format actually helped as we were making our last iteration of the proposed budget and Larry Eastwood, our Treasurer, was able to share his screen quite effectively.

Speaking of Larry, we were sad to hear that he is stepping down as our Treasurer no later than Apr 30 after 20+ years of service. He will continue in certain tasks, such as stick handling the Canada Summer Jobs grant application process, until they are completed. Larry is Treasurer for a number of congregations as well as Presbytery and Hummingbird Ministries, and he's understandably decided to narrow his focus at this time. He has served with wisdom, energy, and good humour, and we will miss him. If you feel you could fill this role, speak to Richard or an elder. Larry has all kinds of documentation and will be glad to mentor you to make the transition easy.

The Annual Congregational Meeting has been scheduled for Sunday, Mar 26 following the service. Please mark this date and plan to attend. Group Leaders, please get your reports in to Neena ASAP.

We are happy to announce that Nehemia Neuhisa will be joining us as Educational Ministries Planner starting Mar 19, with a focus on children and youth. He had extensive experience in this area in his native Indonesia and brings ideas and enthusiasm to RPC. His focus will be on children and youth Faith Formation, and on social/recreational/educational/cultural activities for children, youth, and adults. He is completing an MA in Theological Studies at VST with plans to move on to the MDiv program there. The initial contract is for 3 months, as his summer plans are not yet firm, but we are hopeful that his time with us will not end in June.

Regarding the Call process for the Rev Curtis Bablitz, we have collected signatures of more than 80% of members in support, as well as a great many adherents. The Call will go before our Presbytery (Westminster) on March 7, where Search Committee members Steve Norris and Jannie Burdetti will speak in support. If approved, the Call documents are sent to Curtis's presbytery (Hamilton) for their action on March 14. Then Curtis has 10 days to consider it, but he says it'll take him about 10 seconds! His start date is still to be determined, but in any case it will still be a few months away.

Please keep RPC, our leaders, volunteers, and ministries in your prayers. Although we are vacant, we are able to continue most of our worship and work, and can now look forward to Curtis's leadership to inspire and steer our ministry and mission. Some churches in our Presbytery are having a difficult time right now and so we ask for your prayers for our sister congregations as well.

Graeme Stager, Clerk

