



ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

APRIL 30, 2022

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Renewal Day Program

Remaining TRUE to God's Will

(via Zoom)

Newfoundland 12 noon; Atlantic 11 a.m.; Eastern 10 a.m.
Central 9 a.m.; Mountain 8 a.m.; Pacific 7 a.m.

Worship (15 min)

Speaker (45 min)

Discussion Groups (30 min)

Q & A (15 min)

Closing thoughts, song (5 min)

Break (30 min)

Annual General Meeting (approx. 60 min)

AGENDA

1. Welcome, process details, opening prayer. *“That Debbie Kallender-Stimphil be the secretary for the Annual General Meeting.”* Bartlett/ Faith
2. a) Regrets
b) *“That the decision to hold the 2022 A.G.M. virtually be homologated.”* Bartlett/ Stimphil
c) *“The Agenda be adopted as presented”* Bartlett/ Stimphil
d) *“That all reports without motions be received for information.”* Bartlett/ Stimphil
3. Adoption of Minutes
 “That the minutes of the Annual General Meeting, April 17, 2021 be adopted as presented”.
 Bartlett/ Stimphil
4. Report of the Chairperson
5. Report of the Executive Director
6. Report of the Treasurer
 Statement of Revenues and Expenditures 2021
 Examiner’s Report
 Proposed Budget 2022
 “That the budget for 2022 be adopted as presented.” Bartlett/ Stimphil
 “That the Board be given power to issue in appointing a Financial Examiner for 2022.”
 Bartlett/ Stimphil
7. Nominating Committee Report
 “That the report of the Nominating Committee be adopted as presented and the Board be given power to issue to fill any remaining vacancies.” Bartlett/ Stimphil
8. In Memoriam
9. Other Business
10. Adjournment and Closing worship

IN MEMORIAM

(Former Partners of the Renewal Fellowship)

Mrs. Peggy Westbrook, Ottawa, ON

Mr. Norman W MacLeod, Whitby, ON

Rev. Dr. Robert J. Bernhardt, Hamilton, ON

Miss Margaret Mackay, Toronto, ON

Rev. Dr. Robert C. (Bob) Spencer, Guelph, ON

Miss Karyn McDowall, Scarborough ON

Mrs. Margaret Rose Middleton, Etobicoke, ON

MINUTES

Minutes of the Annual General Meeting Of The Renewal Fellowship Within The Presbyterian Church in Canada

Saturday, April 17, 2021

The Annual General Meeting of the Renewal Fellowship was conducted via Zoom. The attendance was approximately 60 (logged in to the meeting).

1. The meeting opened at 3:00 PM EDT by Ian Shaw, Chair of the Board. I. Shaw provided opening greetings and went over the details of the meeting. He opened the meeting with prayer.
2. Appointment of Secretary: “That Debbie Kallender-Stimphil be the secretary for the Annual General Meeting.” (Bartlett/Charlton) Carried.
3. Regrets were received from Al Clarkson.
4. Motions:
 - a) “The Agenda be adopted as presented with the addition of item 7 b) Other Reports” (Bartlett/Stimphil) Carried.
 - b) “That all reports without motions be received for information.” (Bartlett/Stimphil) Carried.
5. Adoption of Minutes April 25, 2020: “That the minutes of the Annual General Meeting on April 25, 2020 be adopted as presented.” (Bartlett/Stimphil) Carried.
6. Report of the Chairperson: I. Shaw gave the report. Over the past 18-24 months we have been wrestling with the thought, “Do we still have a mission in the Presbyterian Church in Canada?” The board has concluded that yes, we do. We offer authentic biblical thinking, passionate prayer, vibrant evangelism. We can help to grow and reflect the grace and truth of Jesus. Over the last few years our finances have decreased as our expenses increased. We thank God for the bequest from M. Hill, and we have benefited financially from the pandemic. I. Shaw expressed gratitude to the staff, A. Cornell and K. Hwang, and R. Ross (Webmaster), and L. Shaw (Prayer Calendar). Also grateful for D. Eaton, G. Lovelace, and L. Ruo who are leaving the board. We are missing S. Cox and his service as bookkeeper. Thanks to D. Bartlett for taking over that position. There are some new people coming on the board, but there is still room for more people. D. Bartlett Chaired the discussion of the Report of the Chairperson.
7. Report of the Executive Director: I. Shaw returned to the Chair. We are in uncertain times. The remits and Covid have brought together groups like PSALT to work with Renewal

Fellowship that would not have happened in normal times. We continue to seek the hands and feet of Christ to be in us.

8. Report of the Treasurer: Moved by D. Bartlett and seconded by J. Hurd that we receive the financial statements for the year ended Dec. 31, 2020. Carried
Moved by Bartlett/Stimphil that the budget for 2021 be adopted as presented. Carried
Moved by Bartlett/Stimphil that the Board be given power to issue in appointing a Financial Examiner for 2021. Carried
9. Nominating Committee Report: Moved by Bartlett/Stimphil That the report of the Nominating committee be adopted as presented with the Executive to be as follows:
Chairperson – Ian Shaw, Vice-Chairperson – Ed Charlton, Secretary – Debbie Stimphil, Treasurer – Don Bartlett, Executive Director – Andy Cornell and the Board be given power to issue to fill any remaining vacancies.
b) Other Reports: R. Ross reported on Renewal Fellowship Webpage. L. Shaw reported on Prayer Calendar.
10. Relationship of Renewal Fellowship with PSALT: We are traveling along the same path, sometimes separately and sometimes together. We do somethings cooperatively and somethings separately. Discussion ensued about how the groups are cooperating. Greg Brawn explained how Cruxifiction in the United Church came to be.
11. In Memoriam: I. Shaw led the group in remembering those who went to be with the Lord in 2020.
12. Motion to Adjourn: Cecil Adams and James T. Hurd. The meeting closed with a hymn and Ian Shaw led the benediction.

REPORTS

REPORT OF THE BOARD CHAIR FOR THE 2021 ANNUAL REPORT

One of the stereotypical descriptions, promoted by those of a more conservative persuasion, about those with a liberal mind-set is their goal to discredit the Scriptures or at least to weaken one's confidence in the Bible as reliable and trustworthy. One of my earliest experiences of this effort involved the book of Esther. With almost gleeful enthusiasm, a liberally-oriented leader basically dismissed the whole account because God was not mentioned once in the entire book. In fact, the only seeming religious reference in the entire text is the mention of fasting.

Now I admit, I was surprised when I reread the story to verify that God was not named once in the ten chapters. I was marginally acquainted with the story and in my youthful naivete I had always perceived that God had been the one who delivered the Jewish people. But not one mention!! Still my confidence was not shaken. Intuitively, I knew Esther belonged in 'holy writ'.

There of course are even greater challenges related to the book of Esther than the 'secular' appearance of the writings, but I now am even more convinced that Esther belongs in the canon and that the never named God permeates the whole of the story. Lately, one well known verse from the account has come often to mind. It reads, "*For if you remain silent at this time, relief and deliverance for the Jews will arise from another place, And who knows but that you have come to your royal position for such a time as this?*" (4:14)

I'm not sure if Mordecai would embrace belief in the Sovereignty of God, but that's what I hear being proclaimed. God had made a promise to Abraham, Isaac and Jacob and one way or another God will keep that covenant. And the corollary to that affirmation is the importance of each individual in God's plan and purpose. "...*And who knows but that you have come to your royal position for such a time as this?*"

God's providence moves in lockstep with God's power and purpose. A king who leaves much to be desired in terms of character, a queen who appears brave beyond all measure, a culture of elitist chauvinism coincide to open the door for Esther to be in a place of influence just in the nick of time! Yes, I definitely see a place for the book of Esther in the canon.

I believe, we in the *Fellowship* can find confidence and hope in the themes set forth in that short account. To be honest, both within and without the denomination, I sometimes feel there are Haman-like forces determined to destroy my theological tribe. I see friends being mistreated and marginalized. Hundreds of us communicated with the *LaMA* sharing our stories of pain and not one recommendation came to the 2021 General Assembly in response! That's marginalization! Others among us have accused the denomination of blatant racism and the initial findings sadly indicate there is some substance to the accusation. As I write, I know some, no longer willing to continue under the threat of ongoing harassment, are leaving.

More are hanging in. While uncertain as to what other menaces might emerge, they know it is God, not the Hamans nor the Xerxes of the world who are in control; and are also convinced that God has led them to this place in their journeys of faith, and that it is for times just such as this that we are in the *Fellowship* seeking to be a force for renewal in a difficult and demanding circumstance.

Those were scary times for Mordecai and Esther, even with God watching over the whole event. But they acted with courage. They acted in concert. They acted with circumspection. And God's people were delivered. Can we hope for less?!

I personally have no idea what challenges will continue or arise. I do know that the Board is confident in God's provision and that God has in this time invited us to focus on the ministry of prayer and pastoral care as main emphases in our renewing mandate. I believe, if God so desires, we may experience the Breath of God sweeping through us to bring righteousness, peace and joy into the lives of

many.

As I end my time as Chairperson, I am so grateful for the faithful folk I have served with in the past five years on the Board. I sorely miss the counsel of Stan Cox. I initially was open to joining because I knew he would be a partner and close neighbour. I have learned so much from several members with whom I did not see eye to eye [and probably still don't!], who like the iron in the proverb sharpened my understanding and blunted my pride. I remain amazed at the great good God has brought into to my life and that of the denomination through a tiny few faithful folk who formed and continue as the *Renewal Fellowship*.

I am thankful for Andy, Kyoungsoo, Linda and Robin who perform as staff in our ministry. John Park has almost become one of them during these pandemic times as we have turned repeatedly to the internet to connect. The regular donors, individuals and congregations, as well the occasional bequester have made it easier to dream and plan because most years we have funds to carry out what we believe God has called us to pursue.

My friends, I believe the path of 'cross carrying' has grown steeper in this century in Canada and in *The PCC*. Thankfully God's power and grace is more than sufficient. Let us therefore continue to rejoice that God has called and equipped us '*for such a time as this*'. Soli Deo Gloria.

Enthusiastically,

Ian Shaw, Chairperson

NOMINATIONS COMMITTEE REPORT 2022

We are pleased to present the following individuals to be named to the Board of the Fellowship:

Completing term: Don Bartlett ['18], John Park ['18], Ian Shaw ['17], Don MacMillan ['17]

Till 2023: Debbie Kallender-Stimphil ['20], Ian Shaw ['17], Ed Charlton ['20], Don MacMillan ['17]

Till 2024: Glynis Faith ['21], Philip MacFie ['21], Meridyth Robertson ['21], Lisa Baker ['21]

Till 2025: Don Bartlett ['18], Sandy Copland ['22], Jinsil Park ['22], Ronda Bosch ['22]

The date in [brackets] indicates the year the person first came on the Board. An initial term is normally for three years, with the possibility of one second consecutive three-year term.

The Board Executive will be:

Chairperson	Debbie Stimphil
Vice-Chairperson	Ian Shaw
Secretary	
Treasurer	Don Bartlett
Executive Director	Andy Cornell

EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR REPORT FOR 2021 ANNUAL REPORT

If 2020 was the year everything changed, then 2021 was the year we strived to find a new normal.

I admit – 2021 was a struggle for me as your executive director. Like many of you, I was and remain troubled by our denomination’s official step away from orthodoxy with the approval of remits ‘B’ and ‘C’. (Some, myself included from time to time, called it a “step into apostasy,” which is not incorrect. The perspective was interchangeable, depending on my mood at the time and the audience.) The Fellowship’s board of directors, while dismayed by this epochal shift, remained steadfast in the existing mission, to which I concur. Renewal Fellowship (RF hereafter) determined its role in this season to be focused on “prayer” and “pastoral care.” Discerning those two priorities took a good portion of the latter six months of 2021; the length of time is an indicator of the care taken by the board in this matter, for which I am grateful.

Hanging over many of our heads were the spectre of choices. For those in orthodoxy who aren’t keen on celebrating or even validating the creation of new and fanciful genders or ditching any reference to God’s first person as “Father” we were (and remain) invited to “stay and pray” or to support the creation of theological separation or to seek inclusion in the cohort of faithful ones who are actively planning a new reformed/presbyterian expression. Those of a certain age considered retirement, sooner than later. Those with many more years to give found themselves regularly scanning the pastoral job openings at christiancareerscanada.ca.

But I remained in place. And so did many others. Certainly, a few people departed quietly. But there was no mass exodus from the PCC. That was telling. Of what exactly, I am not sure. Perhaps it was testament to our traditional steadfastness. We have been called the frozen chosen, after all.

Theological angst was just part of it. The COVID-19 pandemic started to wear. We became tired of the rise and fall of the waves and the myriad of often-conflicting responses from various levels of government, all of which resembled a three-ring circus at times. Lest I get on a sociopolitical rant, let me just say that I was pleased that the church steadied on during the uncertainty. The leap from the gates in the early days of the pandemic (embracing technology) continued unabated.

We soldiered on. And I marched in step as best I could. Here are some highlights from the year that was.

- RF has always had a physical presence at General Assembly, but the first online gathering of the court provided an opportunity for something new: Pray for GA (renamed Pray for the PCC) which was a dedicated 40-day prayer exercise leading up the gathering and a 24/7 prayer presence while GA was taking place. The Holy Spirit graced us with a team of existing and new friends, working in concert. As a commissioner, I appreciated the live Zoom prayer rooms which were open and buzzing during each pedantic sederunt.
- Much time was devoted to planning and facilitating PCC Covenant, the joyful collaboration of RF with PSALT and others in orthodoxy who banded together for several online summits.
- We continued our monthly Renewal Cafes, which settled into a regular routine of the first Thursday of the month at 1 p.m. Eastern. Attendance has hit the mark almost every time, with just the right number and mix of participants, sharing and praying together.

There were the routine things, which were by no means tedious.

- Our Renewal Day and annual general meeting provided an opportunity to go outside the fold for a guest speaker, an orthodox United Church minister who thrives.
- Continued collaboration with webmaster Robin Ross as we kept the website as fresh as possible.
- I facilitated our monthly director prayer gatherings, which take place on the first Saturday of most months.
- Blogging, sending letters (or emails) of encouragement or phone calls as the Holy Spirit directs.
- Producing the quarterly newsletter, with wise guidance and contributions from directors Glynis Faith and Lisa Baker.

And then there were the things that were lost, or at least put aside for now. Road trips, near and far – to meet face to face and to bring the Word and encouragement to friends from coast to coast – were once the mainstay of the executive director's call. I have a sense that it may remain that way. That's part lament and part enthusiasm, for it's forcing us to leverage technology to advance the Kingdom. In that light, I actually came face to (virtual) face with more people now than before. We are invited to dwell on the positive.

In the larger scheme of things, our cultural/political/theological shifts are but a blip in the timeless expanse. We exist in Kairos time, which may be the most significant benefit from all of the disruption and, given our human nature, the biggest challenge.

The other 60 per cent of my call:

- My home congregation of St. Andrew's Dresden (Ontario) was graced with new livestream technology, strong financial support and continued to enjoy a small measure of growth.
- I remained interim moderator at Lakeshore St. Andrew's and Ridgeway Mt. Zion.

On the home front, I remained blessed. Home renovations provided a therapeutic outlet. In a world in which parents are often unable to see their children face to face, our two adult sons remained safely and productively in the nest.

In all things, glory to God.

Respectfully submitted,
Andy Cornell, Executive Director
<amcpastor1@gmail.com>

RENEWAL FELLOWSHIP WEBSITE REPORT for 2021

The continuing purpose of the Renewal Fellowship website is to advance the cause of God and the Renewal Fellowship online as efficiently and effectively as possible. Andy Cornell has been very active in promoting the work of the Fellowship during this year leading up to and following the momentous decisions of the General Assembly this past June. Approximately 39 mailings were sent out to our 925 email subscribers during the year, which either presented or linked to Andy's Blogs, Renewal News, Renewal Day, Renewal Café, PCC Covenant Townhalls, Overtures to the General Assembly, the General Assembly Prayer Initiative, Prayer Calendar Requests, Living Hope: A Day of Encouragement and Renewal, and cooperative projects with PSALT.

During the year, maintaining the *renewal-fellowship.ca* website called for the creation or updating of 75 webpages. In addition, a website was created for Living Hope: A Day of Encouragement and Renewal at *adayofencouragement.ca*.

During 2021, 15,881 visitors generated 42,108 views of our website pages.

I consider it a great privilege to be involved in the Internet presence of the Renewal Fellowship. I am always open to considering new ideas for ways to use technology to advance the Kingdom of God.

Respectfully submitted,
Robin Ross <rross@telus.net>,
Webmaster, Mission, British Columbia

REPORT OF THE PRAYER CO-ORDINATOR FOR 2021 ANNUAL REPORT

During 2021, approximately 138 households and 381 churches receive a printed version of the Prayer Calendar quarterly. Many more received the prayer calendar by email: 259 daily, 91 weekly and 584 monthly, so that's a lot of people praying for our denomination and our world. Some of our prayers are also included on the PresbyCan Daily Devotional which adds to our count.

I appreciate the prayer submissions I received from coast-to-coast over the last year. We are a national church. I believe it is important that prayers for specific needs for congregations and presbyteries are included; and for that to happen, I need members of the *Renewal Fellowship* from across Canada to send me prayer requests. The requests need to be short, specific and dated, if possible. That would make my job easier! If needs arise after the prayer calendar is printed, it is still possible to have them included in the email version of the prayer calendar thanks to the faithful and quick work of webmaster Robin Ross. Please look at your church calendars and send your prayer requests to me; and more importantly, PRAY morning and night for our church. Pray that God would give our leaders and our people great wisdom in these days. Pray that we will love God and love people. Pray that we will have eyes to see how the Lord wants us to serve our communities and our world in the coming year, even in the midst of many changes and challenges. "Praise the Lord in the deepest valley. Praise the Lord on the highest hill."

The best way to send prayer requests to me is by email, but they can also be sent by regular mail to my home address (see below). To ensure your prayer submissions are included in the quarterly printed Prayer Calendar, they must be sent 4 weeks prior to publication. The deadline for the 3rd quarter of 2022 is June 4th, but anytime up until then will put a smile on my face!

Thanks to all who have submitted prayer requests. Special thanks to my husband, Ian, for his assistance in preparing the prayer calendar; to Kyoungsoo Hwang, Administrative Assistant, for printing and mailing the printed versions of the Prayer Calendar; to Robin Ross, Webmaster, who posts the Prayer Calendar by email and Andy Cornell, Executive Director, who posts them on Facebook.

Respectfully submitted,
Linda Shaw, Prayer Co-ordinator
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