

Newsletter

RPCC Presbytery May 2026



A fly on the wall perspective

If you were to be a fly on the wall when the Presbytery, the ministers and ruling elders of the RPC of Canada meet twice a year, what would you see, what would you see and hear?

Well, you would see men eating together (some, probably more than they should, including this author). You would hear laughter as stories are exchanged and a few jokes are shared (some better than others, and, again, the author includes himself among the guilty), but you would also hear serious matters of the heart being addressed. Conversations and discussions between men about matters of eternal consequence. Men who know they do not own the church but appreciate the gravity of their obligation to love and serve her.

Even though, in the eyes of the world, such meetings would be regarded as utterly irrelevant, they are of immense importance to you and your family because of the decisions that are taken at them. Hopefully, this report will encourage you.

Contents

pages 2, 3

- Congregations doing well

page 4

- Be together as a church

page 5

- La Crete

pages 6, 7

- RP Seminary

page 8

- RPCC Mission - Brazil
- Finance
- Appreciation



Congregations doing well

With challenges being faced but blessings also being experienced.

Almonte (Hillside RPC)

- Reported that they continue to reflect and give praise to God for His grace and blessing in 2025, notwithstanding the loss of two of their deacons, with the passing of Mr. Tony Welk, after a lengthy struggle with leukemia in the spring of 2025 and Mr. Guy Markham, who resigned from office due to health concerns.
- In addition to the ongoing body life of the congregation being reported on, it was noted that the issue of what to do with their property has essentially been resolved for now, with the decision to improve the current facility and to wait on the Lord to make provision when needed in the future.

Beckwith RPC

- Although no timeline has been established for calling a pastor yet, the search for a full-time pastor is well underway, with the session interviewing several candidates and inviting pastors to visit the congregation and preach.
- While some members have had to move for various reasons, weekly worship participation remains the same because of the visitors who are coming.
- The move in May 2025 to begin worshipping at the Calvary Christian Academy in Franktown has proved successful, with needs met and a good relationship developed with the school board, resulting in an extended lease through the end of this year.

Kitchener (New Creation RPC)

- The congregation celebrated Pastor Scott Wilkinson's 30 years of ministry this year.
- The life of the congregation includes alternating bi-weekly Bible studies and prayer meetings, two youth groups that meet once a month, and monthly Psalm sings and fellowship meals.
- The congregation was blessed with three professions of faith, the transfer of one individual membership from Ottawa to New Creation, and three baptisms. The transfer of membership for the three ministry student families to the Ottawa Reformed Presbyterian Church was also noted.
- Summer evangelism took place in downtown Kitchener, and several members are involved with Redemption Prison Ministries at the Grand Valley Institute for Women.

Ottawa RPC

- Reference was made to the fact that 2025 was a year of recovery from the sending out of almost 50 adults and children to form the Beckwith RP congregation in the fall of 2024. But it was also noted that the Lord has brought in a number of people, resulting in worship participation levels rising to the point where evening worship is on par with what it was before the fall of 2024.
- The remodelling, which saw the building's basement converted into a facility for the RP Seminary of Canada, and the renovation of the washrooms, was completed in the summer of 2025.
- Appreciation was expressed to the students and ministers who responded positively to the request for preaching supply during the minister's work permit issue in the Fall of 2025.

Congregations doing well

With challenges being faced but blessings also being experienced.

Russell RPC

- With the Lord's blessing upon the congregation over the past few years, the Russell Session indicated that they face the challenge of whether to build a dedicated worship area (the planned phase 2) or start another congregation.
- The other issue being considered by the Session is whether to call a temporary teaching elder to come alongside Pastor Matt Kingswood to reduce the workload associated with a growing congregation.
- One statistic that speaks to the Lord's blessing is the nine infant baptisms in 2025.

Toronto RPC (EPC)

- The story of the Toronto congregation is the influx of Persians who have come to worship in the past couple of years. This has brought a number of blessings to the congregations as well as some challenges.
- The most noticeable blessing is the 25 baptisms in 2025.
- One of the challenges is the obvious communication barrier; however, the use of a software program called "Wordly" has been a real success. This real-time voice-to-text translation platform can translate speech into multiple languages simultaneously, enabling worship participants from various nations, including the Persians, to participate in an informed way.

Vancouver RPC

- 2025 was the first full year of Rev. David Matthes' ministry and saw an increase in the congregation's body life, with fellowship dinners, Psalm singing evenings, and a church picnic.
- The congregation experienced a real loss when its one local ruling elder, Mr. Hugh Fraser, died in June. A man of true godly character, Hugh, in human terms, carried the congregation for many years, and his passing was greatly felt.
- Following a congregational meeting in September, the decision was taken to commence morning worship in Ladner, a community south of the city, where the church manse is located.

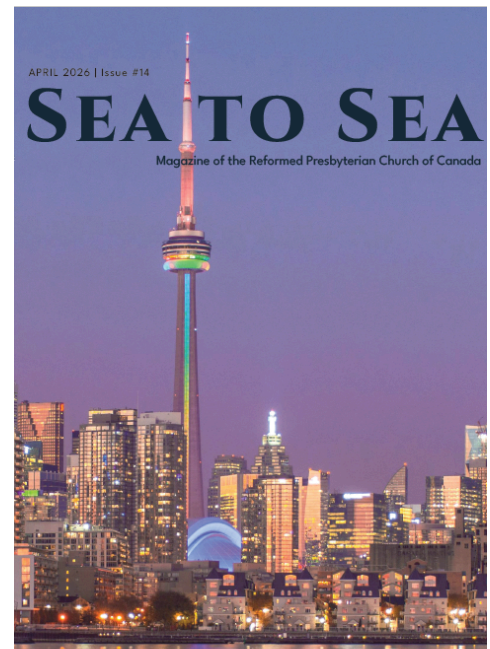
Chinese Mission Churches

- Rev. Kevin Jia and Rev. James Zhou meet each month via Zoom with three Chinese pastors from NAPARC churches for prayer. This is a time when they can share the particular challenges they face and encourage one another, and it has proved helpful to their ministries.
- Because of the size of the two congregations and the health issues that Rev. Kevin Jia has been experiencing, the Presbytery asked the BC Chinese Session to investigate the potential for uniting the Nissi and West Vancouver congregations and to bring a report back at the fall Presbytery meeting.

Camps and Conferences Committee



RP Family Camp 2026
The Camps and Conferences Committee reported that the RP Family Camp, August 28–31, 2026, is **90% booked** and encouraged the ministers and elders to inform the congregations.



**Registration closes
Wednesday, July 8, 2026
So if you want to book,
do so soon.**

Winterlude, and the Men's and Women's Retreats

It was noted that the Winterlude Youth Weekend, and both the Men's and Women's retreat reports:

- indicated that the event was blessed with an encouraging number of participants,
- expressed appreciation for the respective speakers,
- and that plans for future retreats include seeking to book speakers several years ahead.

The Communications Committee RPCC reported on the production of the 'Sea to Sea' magazine, its social media work, and the Monthly RPCC MailChimp Newsletter, which summarizes RPCC news and activities.

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La Crete - a new unorganized RP Church



At the October 2024 Presbytery meeting, following a presentation by Rev. Dr. Andrew Quigley, the Presbytery agreed that the Ottawa RPC Session could explore further the opportunity to form an RPC in La Crete, Alberta. Throughout 2025, there were ongoing interactions with the five families who formed the La Crete RP Fellowship, and in August 2025, they initiated the decision to begin participating in online worship with the Ottawa RPC.

The ORPC Session presented two petitions at the May 2026 Presbytery meeting, and these were granted, meaning that the La Crete fellowship is now an unorganized congregation of the RPCC under the oversight of the Ottawa RPC Session. This means that the Ottawa Session has the authority to receive new members, exercise Church discipline, administer the sacraments, and conduct elections for ruling elders and deacons, who will be ordained and/or installed when the Presbytery organizes the congregation.

There are currently five families in the La Crete RP unorganized church, comprising 10 adults and 12 children.

- Mr. George and Mrs. Shelly Loewen Kaylia, and their college-age daughters Kylia and Chloe.
- Mr. Kylan and Mrs. Reanna Teichroeb Harper and their four children aged six and under, Harper (girl), River (boy), Lennon (girl), Maverick (boy), and Silas.
- Mr. Damian and Mrs. Rebecca Loewen and their infant son, Lincoln.
- Mr. Philip and Roseanne Banman, who have two boys, Adam, who is 6 and Jonathan, who is 4.
- Mr. Shawn and Mrs. Elizabeth Dick, who have three girls aged 5 and under, Sabina, Camille and Halle.

Intern - Morgan McMahan and his wife Ellyn



A work permit application has been submitted for Mr. Morgan McMahan, a member of the College Hill RPCNA church who has just graduated from the RP Theological Seminary in Pittsburgh. Morgan has agreed to undertake a one-year internship, commencing in July/August 2026 (depending on when the Work Permit is approved), with Rev. Dr. Andrew Quigley. While obviously it isn't typical for an intern to work in a different location from the minister they are interning with, arrangements have been made for Morgan to work in La Crete, with weekly oversight from Dr. Quigley and monthly input from the ORPC Session. Morgan will be accompanied by his wife, Ellyn.

Please pray that Morgan's worker permit will be approved and for their relocation to La Crete.



Student Preaching

The Presbytery was genuinely encouraged by the preaching of the three students, Marco Tochijara, Ezra Wilkinson and Ethan Van Hoffen.

On the Tuesday morning of Presbytery, Marco preached on John 2:1-12, the account of the wedding at Cana, where the Lord turned water into wine and spoke of Christ's gifts to the church of Transformation, Abundance, and Satisfaction.

In the afternoon, Ethan preached on Philippians 3:1-11 under the headings: Confidence - Apart from Christ, In Christ, and Lived for Christ.

Then on Wednesday morning, Ezra preached on Psalm 23, dealing with Christ's Provision in Life, Comfort in Death, and Mercy in Eternity.

Student Exams

In addition to preaching at the Presbytery, the three students were examined in three areas: Biblical Knowledge, Systematic Theology, and Personal Godliness.

- Rev. Scott Wilkinson examined the students' Biblical Knowledge by asking questions on the Old Testament, both history and theology. The Presbytery was given an opportunity to ask follow-up questions.
- The Systematic Theology exam was given by Rev. Matt Kingswood, who focused on the goal of studying theology and the person of God. Again, the ministers and ruling elders were allowed to ask any questions they wished.
- Finally, Rev. Dr. Vince Ward asked the students about their personal godliness, which was followed by some questions from members of the Presbytery.

Each of the men acquitted themselves exceptionally well, showing how much the Lord has blessed us as a Church in giving us three men of this calibre to train for the gospel ministry.

Next Intake of Seminary Students August 2028

The Presbytery agreed that the next intake of students will take place in August 2028. This was for several reasons:

Financial planning

Knowing that we will not be taking students in until August 2028 provides the opportunity to plan financially. We want to continue to provide RPCC men training for the ministry with an annual bursary or living allowance, enabling them to devote themselves entirely to preparing for this challenging calling.

The history of training men for the ministry, especially married men with children, has not been wholly positive in Canada. While there may be various reasons for that, one contributing factor was the attempt to train men while they continued their careers to support their families.

Yes, this investment is substantial, but if a man is called and serves Christ in the ministry for 35/40 years, economically, it is a small price to pay, between \$4K-\$4.5k for each year that he ministers. Especially compared with men who try to take courses for maybe 8-10 years and never graduate.

Teaching

If the seminary were to take in students annually, it would create an unmanageable workload for the biblical language teachers, as they could potentially have to teach a two-week intensive course for each intake. This would mean they would, in total, be teaching 6 weeks of intensive language in the year. Simply not possible for 'full-time' ministers.

Studying

An annual intake of students would also be problematic for the students. For example, take the Systematic Theology course. There is logic to the order in which classes are taught: the fundamentals are taught in the first year and then built on to the logical conclusion of Eschatology in the third year. Or in Pastoral Theology, where the students need to be taught to think about what the job is before progressing to learning how to do it. So, having students enter at different points in the three-year cycle creates challenges for teachers and students alike.

Promotional and prayer opportunity

Having the next intake in August 2028 gives us all a date to focus on. Men considering undertaking training for the ministry know there is a definite starting point to aim for. It also gives the church a date to focus on when praying for the Lord of the Harvest to send men for training.

Then he said to his disciples,
“The harvest is plentiful, but
the laborers are few;
therefore pray earnestly
to the Lord of the harvest
to send out laborers
into his harvest.”
Matthew 9:37, 38

RPCC Mission - Brazil



The RPCC has a mission committee whose current focus is on supporting a small group of ministers who have expressed a strong interest in establishing a Reformed Presbyterian Church in Brazil. The initial contact was made in 2024 between Mr. Seyr Lemos and Rev. Joelson Pinheiro, and following Presbytery decisions, Rev. Dr. Andrew Quigley went to Brazil in April 2025 and April 2026, during which he taught on the history of the Reformed Presbyterian Church, and on her distinctive doctrines. He also preached and held meetings with the ministers to encourage and help them towards realizing their desire. (The 'Sea to Sea', June edition, will have an article on this.)

Finances

The Finance Committee presented its report, which included the 2024 & 2025 RPCC Congregational Membership & Attendance Stats and the 2025 & 2024 RPCC Congregational Financial statistics. The reports showed that the *Presbytery Dues*, the amount that congregations contribute to the Presbytery, which is used to finance aspects of denominational life, were slightly above budget.

The fact that it was above budget is a sign of the Lord's blessing on the denomination, with income from across the church exceeding expectations, as evidenced by the 2024 and 2025 income figures.
Total Income in 2024: \$1,474,294.
Total Income in 2025: \$1,630,346.

Appreciation

- Mr. Jamie Hood was thanked for his many years of service as Presbytery Financial Clerk. A role crucial to the sound operational functioning of the denomination's finances, and one which Jamie undertook with consummate ability and grace.
- Mrs. Karin Foster and Mr. Jordan Dohms were thanked for their work on Sea to Sea, the denominational magazine. As was Rev. Kevin Jia, the translator for the Chinese editions.
- The social media congregational representatives were thanked for the photos and news materials they produce for the social media postings.
Vanessa van der Meer (Beckwith),
Laura Smid/Emilia Lemos (Kitchener),
Karin Foster (Ottawa), Leah Roseboom (Russell)
and Kyla Fraser (Vancouver).
- Mr. Norm Fry, Mrs. Jane Fry, Mr. Pierre Landry, Miss Alice Coelho, Mr. Eric White, Mrs. Lindsay McKay and Mrs. Heather Quigley, members of the Ottawa RP congregation, were thanked for preparing meals, arranging accommodations in the church, giving lifts to the airport, etc.