

Ottawa Circuit Mission and Ministry Support Committee

Bulletin #1 (2022)

Just as each of us has one body with many members, and these members do not all have the same function, so in Christ we who are many form one body, and each member belongs to all the others.

Romans 12:5,6 (NIV)

Grace, Mercy and Peace be to you and your congregation today and throughout the days ahead.

All congregations, regardless of status, are facing challenges complicated further by the on-going pandemic. Recognizing our many and varied needs, the Ottawa Circuit Forum at their meeting June 6, 2021 formed an Ottawa Circuit Mission and Ministry Support Committee to search avenues by which our congregations could assist each other, following Christ's mandate *"go and make disciples, of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, and teaching them to obey everything I have commanded you."*

The objective of this committee is to support and find support for mission and ministry work currently within the circuit. We have no direction to come up with new plans and projects on our own at this time, so we rely on requests for help/support or an expression of need to come directly from the congregations, pastors, missionaries, Circuit Forum or through the Pastor's Winkel.

Geographically the Ottawa Circuit is the largest circuit within Lutheran Church-Canada, extending from Timmins, Ontario in the north to Halifax, Nova Scotia in the East. Within these boundaries we have twenty-two congregations—some well-established; some in the beginning stages of meeting together; some struggling; others are mission congregations financially assisted by LCC congregations through the Regional Mission and Ministry Council (RMMC) for the East Region. (please refer to the list attached)

It is important to keep in mind that the number of assistance requests needed in our Circuit are much larger than in other Circuits due to our large geographical size and outreach. Each one of our congregations, regardless of size or financial viability is vital as it provides Word and Sacrament ministry to its members; outreach and mission work at home and abroad.

Accordingly, the first task assigned to this subcommittee was to review the structure, format and process for financial assistance made to the RMMC; and to review the requests provided to us by congregations within the Ottawa Circuit. We recommended all requests for assistance as received be viewed as vital. Assistance has been approved as follows:

Good Shepherd Lutheran Church, Moncton -- \$16,000.

Redeemer Lutheran Church, Sudbury -- \$60,000.

Christ Lutheran Church, Timmins -- \$57,500.

St. Andrew's Lutheran Church, Halifax -- \$85,000.

Our Saviour Lutheran Church, Kingston -- \$0

This support committee met June 29, 2021 to begin its assignment set out by the Forum. From this meeting, a letter was forwarded to the East Regional Pastor, Rev. Marvin Bublitz and to the East Regional Mission and Ministry Council outlining our concerns and pledging our commitment to support the work of the RMMC as it endeavours to support and fulfill the Mission goals in the East Region and within our Circuit.

The subcommittee meets virtually monthly to discuss ideas to support one another. One of the areas we found lacking was communication between and among the congregations, missions and people of our circuit. In this regard, we met with Alex Steinke, LCC Communications Director, for her ideas and suggestions. Alex generously offered her assistance to any congregation in regards to setting up or updating websites; using social media, etc. Please free to contact her. The committee itself is discussing ways and means of how we as congregations can connect with each other, increasing our awareness of what is happening from one end of the circuit to the other, recognizing our “oneness” as *“one body in Christ”*. Within the next little while your congregation will be contacted to provide a profile of your congregation—brief history, strengths, challenges, vision, etc. It is hoped that having this information will give us an awareness of how to put our ideas to best use and possibly serve as a source of encouragement to other congregations.

In the meantime, we would urge each congregation to pray for one another; for our pastors; for our congregations needing financial assistance. If your congregation has a specific prayer request or need, please contact the other congregations within the circuit who might be more than able and willing to meet your needs.

Ottawa Circuit is made up of many congregations—large, small, urban, country; varied demographics; unique vision but we are all one in Christ. We have been given the privilege and responsibility of caring, supporting, encouraging each other regardless of where our “home” congregation might be. In Christ we are one Body, united in serving Him, proclaiming Jesus as our Lord and Saviour. In this respect we would request that this bulletin information be shared with the chairman and council of your congregation; your Congregational Representative as well as all members of your congregation.

It is our intent as the Ottawa Circuit Mission and Ministry Support Committee to communicate with our Ottawa Circuit congregations periodically through this type of information bulletin. If we do happen upon resources or projects that could be useful in your ministry, we will share this information in our communication. As well, if any of our congregations have done or tried something innovative, please let us know so that we can share with our other congregations.

We, the members of this support committee, ask for your prayers as we recognize the challenges and opportunities within our Ottawa Circuit. Please do not hesitate to contact any one of us with your ideas; your suggestions as to how best we can serve one another in His name.

To God be the glory, the praise and all honour!

In Christ,

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LCC Chartered congregations: (these get a vote at conventions and forums)

North: Christ Lutheran Church, Timmins, Ontario (Rev. Milton Lam)
St. Paul Lutheran Church, Kirkland Lake, Ontario
Redeemer Lutheran Church, Sudbury, Ontario (Rev. David Smilek)

Valley: Christ Lutheran Church, Petawawa, Ontario (Rev. William Stanfel)
Grace Lutheran Church, Locksley, Ontario (Rev. Paul Williams)
St. Luke's Lutheran Church, Eganville, Ontario (Rev. Paul Williams, Vacancy Pastor)
Zion Lutheran Church, Augsburg, Ontario (Rev. Paul Williams, Vacancy Pastor)

Upper St. Lawrence: Our Saviour Lutheran Church, Kingston, Ontario (Rev. Allan Maleske)

Ottawa: Christ Risen Lutheran Church, Kanata, Ontario (Rev. Dr. Jorge Groh)
Our Saviour Lutheran Church, Ottawa, Ontario (Rev. Marek Sabel)
St. Luke Lutheran Church, Ottawa, Ontario (Rev. Dr. Bryan King)
Tri-Parish—Politmore, Buckingham, Inlet, Quebec (Rev. Richard Lockstadt)

Montreal: l'Eglise Evangelique Lutherienne de l'Ascension, Montreal, Quebec (Rev. Dr. David Somers)

Maritimes: Good Shepherd Lutheran Church, Moncton, N.B. (Rev. David Milette)
St. Andrew's Lutheran Church, Nova Scotia/Prince Edward Island (Rev. John Nieminen)

LCC Missions (no votes)

Quebec: Mission l'Eglise de la Reconciliation, Sherbrooke, Quebec (Rev. Razafy Razafindrakoto)
L'Eglise Evangelique Lutherienne de la sainte-Trinite, Quebec City, Quebec (Rev. Marco-Antonio Jacobsen)