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New Church Canadian

A Bi-Monthly Newsletter of the General
Church in Canada



GROWING THE CHURCH THROUGH LOVE AND TRUTH

By Rev. David Lindrooth, Assistant Bishop

Foreword from Rev. James Cooper

Our lead article for this issue is by Assistant Bishop David Lindrooth. As an Assistant Bishop, the church in Canada is one of his areas of responsibility, and he offers us these reflections on our part in the growth of the church.

People new to the New Church often wonder why there aren't millions of members of the General Church after they discover that its teachings are so compelling.

There are, no doubt, many factors that have inhibited the rapid growth of the church. Some of those factors are in our control. Many are not. But it is worthwhile to consider how our interactions with people might better contribute to health of the faith. In that consideration, we might each take some time for prayerful reflection, asking the Lord to show us where our own faith is flawed and how we might, as individuals, make changes to better allow the Lord's faith to be more clearly present in all aspects of the life of the church. Our efforts to improve how we share our faith with others will without doubt, help open the way for more people to benefit from the Lord's revelation.

The stated faith of the New Church as presented in the Heavenly

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From the Editor



Doctrines is the clearest, most compelling, most powerful and most positive description of how to live the life of heaven that the Lord has ever given. This is something we can celebrate. And maybe we can be a little more outspoken about this tremendous gift that the Lord has given us.

A key factor impacting and likely slowing the growth of the church is that our faith asks for radical change – and who likes to change?! Our faith is counter-cultural – and according to ‘Hollywood’ culture, our religion isn’t cool. Much of the surrounding hedonistic world suggests that the changes asked by the New Church are meaningless and dumb. Instead, that world view prefers the notion that the pursuit self-satisfaction is the highest goal of society. Its doctrine is based on the lie that ‘you can be anything you want to be’. By contrast, New Church faith asks a great deal of us as people (who don’t like to change) by inviting us to leave purely self-promoting goals deemed cool by the culture around us – and the self-serving pursuits we often enjoy. In that environment, it is easy to be blinded to how valuable the life of New Church religion is.

But the reality is that the faith of the New Church offers true, deep and unending purpose to one’s life. New Church faith is the clearest road map leading us to become human that exists on our planet. Without it, people are left to try to figure it out on their own and are going to struggle constantly getting lost and struggling to find the meaning the Lord wishes for all His children.

One Statement of the faith that saves:

“Saving faith is in God as Saviour, because He is God and man, and He is in the Father and the Father is in Him, so that they are one. Those therefore who approach Him, at the same time approach the Father, that is, the one and only God, and saving faith is in no other. We are to believe or have faith in the Son of God, the Redeemer and Saviour, who was conceived of Jehovah and born of the Virgin Mary, and was named Jesus Christ. This is evident from His own often-repeated commands, and later from those of the Apostles” (TCR 337).

Simply put, we need a relationship with the Lord so His life can be present in everything we do; in order to build that relationship, we need to be able to follow His truths that He provides us in His Word.

It is tempting to focus on how difficult it is to live the life of faith. Instead, take a moment to reflect on how easy it is. Think of it this way- the Lord gave us a faith described in the Word as the road map to eternal life. When He gave us that road map, the Lord, who is Divine love itself and our Savior wasn’t thinking that He would try to challenge the human race, making us struggle in order to ‘attain salvation’. Rather, He was providing the easiest and most direct path to heaven that is possible. If we decide to navigate by ourselves, trying to rely on our own native intelligence to discover that which is heavenly, it is going to be far more difficult for us to find it.

Human beings are complicated. The cultures surrounding us today is also complicated. The Lord knows that and accounts for it in His system. The point to consider, the Word offers the guidance to make our journey toward heaven safer, easier, more stable, and more filled with meaning and joy than any other paths we might try to create for ourselves.

One key concept in taught in the book Divine Providence is that there is a conjunction of good and truth in everything that comes from the Lord. Every truth of faith has its corresponding love

tied intrinsically to it. There is no truth that is true without the presence of the Lord's love. And the same goes for love – all love has truth that extends from it. Love without truth isn't real. Of course, this applies to truth without love too.

I believe that the church will really start to take root when our churches are known for teaching truths in such a way that the love tied with the truths is clearly present. This wouldn't just be the case for the 'easy' truths, but is also so for the hard truths. I'm not suggesting that we shy away from the hard truths; rather, we just need to carefully and wisely connect them to the love that gives them their origin. If we are known for uniting the Lord's love and wisdom, our church would become recognized for its honesty and known for its mercy. This is in line with the teaching that "Divine Providence takes place unceasingly through means of pure mercy (DP 335). Can we aspire to be known for providing the means that is always present with the Lord's Divine mercy?

How do we model this more mature faith? How do we help newcomers discover the powerful connection that the Lord builds in our lives as we turn to the Lord as vessels in our interactions with Him in His church? How can we better promote the marriage of Good and Truth in every aspect of the life of the church? Surely any steps we take in this direction will contribute to the health of the faith of the Lord's church on earth.



GCIC MEMBERSHIP EVENTS - MAY 2026

By Karen Cooper, GCIC Secretary

The GCIC hosted two membership events this spring in an attempt to see if there were people who were unwittingly *not* members of the General Church or General Church of Canada who wanted to be, and to bring current members up to date.

We brought in Freya Williams from Bryn Athyn to speak about the General Church's efforts to increase membership, and to let us know what they are up to in Bryn Athyn—and she was a delightful speaker. She spoke about things from the viewpoint of the head office, and then Lee Horigan and Jim Cooper spoke about things pertaining to the General Church in Canada.



To make things more interesting we offered the attendees a free meal, prizes and games! Attendance was good, and I think it was safe to say that we had fun as well as learned a few new things.

The good news is that a small handful of people realized that they weren't GC members (and signed up) and another group (about 15) have signed up for the GCIC!

Plans are in the works for a similar event to be held in Dawson Creek in the fall—stay tuned.

If you are reading this and aren't sure if you are a member or not, please contact me, karenanncooper@gmail.com, and I'll be happy to check the records and let you know.

GCIC BOARD MEETING SUMMARY: MAY 23, 2026

By Karen Cooper, GCIC Secretary

The GCIC board met on the afternoon of the Annual General Meeting, to have a regular board meeting, as is our habit.

One of the first things we did was establish a committee to talk about the granting of scholarships to students going to Academy New Church schools in Bryn Athyn. For years only a very small number of students were going to BA, but just recently the numbers have soared up to about 9-10! Since we are currently funding students for up to 95% of the costs, having many more students go affects the bottom line. This committee will discuss, among other things, if this current rate is sustainable, and who precisely is eligible. If you have opinions or concerns on this topic, please contact Jim Cooper.

One of the ongoing concerns of the board is insurance coverage for all the various activities that GCIC is involved in. Right now we are dealing with how best to provide insurance coverage for Maple and Living Waters camps. An obvious solution has not yet made itself be known, but various ideas are being explored.

Our finances continue to be in good shape. There is an opening in the Investment Committee, and they need a new member. Anybody who has some experience with investing is encouraged to volunteer!

Denis de Chazal is spearheading a group to place books of the Writings and/or other Swedenborgian books into books stores and libraries. You will probably hear more about this soon.

BEING HELPFUL IN A HELPFUL WAY

By Rev. James Cooper

Imagine, if you will, a little old lady standing on the corner of a busy street. A Boy Scout, looking to do his good deed for the day (this was a while ago), thinks that it would be very kind to help her across the street. He gently but firmly takes her arm and even though she protests, he insists that it's no trouble at all, he's happy to do it. They cross the street and he goes off whistling, feeling very proud of himself. And the lady sadly watches the bus she's been waiting for go by on the other side of the street.

In the New Church we have a teaching that says, "that which is freely received with affection, remains." This has significant impact on the way we teach because it shows that we need to do more than present information, we need to inspire delight in the subject at the same time. We are more likely to remember something if it relates to something we enjoy. It also means that there needs to be both a desire to do something and a rational choice to actually do it. You may want to do something but know that there are good reasons why you shouldn't do it – reasons that other people may not know about.

What this is all leading to is that we need to have respect for the choices that other people make. We need to allow them to say "no" to your kind and thoughtful offer without being angry, or resentful, or pushy. Just because you think it's a good idea does not mean that the other person would think so too, or even if they think it's a great idea, this might be a bad time.

And even if it is something they should do, they still have the right to be wrong.

It's good to want to be helpful. But just trying to make others do what you think is the right and proper thing to do is probably not going to be well received. You'll be dis-appointed when the person doesn't appreciate all you've done for them. The receiver will be put in the awkward position of trying to seem grateful for a gift that will cost them time and effort to put right. The gift of a quarter steer – enough meat to feed a family for year – sounds like a good thing, unless they don't have an empty freezer chest.

If it is your intention to actually be helpful, speak to the person and ASK if there's anything that you can do. You could even make a couple of suggestions. But you need to accept that the answer might be, "no thank you."

The truth is, offering help is often the best gift, even if it is not accepted.



REGIONAL PASTOR & EVP NOTES

By Rev. James Cooper

First, an update on the pastoral services in Canada. The good news is that no one is moving in the foreseeable future. The interesting news is that pastor in London, England is moving, leaving that country without a resident pastor in spite of our best efforts to find a replacement. While the effort to find someone willing to move there continues (speaking as someone who has done it, international moves are difficult, time consuming, and have a significant impact on the minister's family) volunteers will travel to England for extended visits.

Michael Cowley and I are among those who have volunteered. Michael will be there from mid-September through mid-October. I will follow Michael and be there until early December. This will disrupt some of our travel plans in Canada, but in most cases, we will be able to find substitutes. Just as it's easier to find someone willing to visit for 8 weeks instead of 5 years, it's easier to find someone willing to travel for a weekend than for two months. We are working on the calendars now and will keep you informed. And just to give you a heads up, we will both be visiting England again in the spring of 2027.

As for the GCIC, at our June meeting we granted a request from the Cascadia group to help fund their 2027 Family Camp. Though it is early talking about the summer of 2027, you have to book early to get a favourable date, and that usually requires a significant downpayment. The GCIC Board was delighted to continue to support this important use.

The GCIC Scholarship program has also provided substantial assistance to 4 Canadian students to attend the Academy of the New Church Secondary Schools for the 2025 – 2026 school year. The program is having the desired effect of helping Canadian students get to the Academy. We're planning for seven students in the Secondary Schools and three students at the College for the 2026-2027 school year. If you know of any Canadian resident who is associated with the church and wants to attend the Academy Schools, have them contact me.

In July there are two Church camps scheduled. The Living Waters Family camp in Ontario, and the Cascadia Retreat in Olympia, WA. Perhaps someone attending could send us a report for the next issue of New Church Canadian?

Finally, the next GCIC Board meeting will be on Saturday, September 12 at 11:00 EDT, by Zoom.

OLIVET SCHOOL CLOSING CEREMONY SPEECH

By Emily Crampton, Olivet School Principal

To close out the school year, I would like to share with everyone one of our traditions, the Good Deed Tree.

I believe this is one of the things that makes Olivet special. In many places, education focuses on mistakes—you forgot to carry the one, you missed a capital letter, or your stance was incorrect. Here, before we begin a new week, we take time to recognize what our students did well the previous week.

When a teacher sees a student demonstrate good character, they write it on a piece of fruit, and the student then adds it to our Good Deed Tree. There is also a deeper meaning behind this tradition, and if Rev. Beiswenger will forgive me for stepping slightly into his lane, I'd like to explain why it matters so much.

Above the tree are the words, "By their fruits you will know them." These words come from a longer passage, Matthew 7:16–20:

"You will know them by their fruits. Do people gather grapes from thornbushes or figs from thistles? Likewise, every good tree bears good fruit, but a bad tree bears bad fruit. A good tree cannot bear bad fruit, nor can a bad tree bear good fruit. Every tree that does not bear good fruit is cut down and thrown into the fire. Therefore, by their fruits you will know them."

There is a saying: "When someone shows you who they are, believe them." We often hear those words after someone has revealed their thorns and hurt us. But at Olivet School, we want our students to show the world that they are kind, caring, and compassionate people. We want them to be known by the good fruit they produce.

The fruits gathered in my bucket each week do not represent all the kind things our students do for one another. They simply highlight a moment that stood out. If we gave out a fruit every time a student offered to hold the door, helped a classmate, or assisted a younger student, the bucket would be overflowing—and we would be in chapel for hours reading them all off.

Mahatma Gandhi is often credited with saying:



"Your beliefs become your thoughts, your thoughts become your words, your words become your actions, your actions become your habits, your habits become your values, and your values become your destiny."

The good deeds we celebrate may seem small, but they help shape habits. Those habits become character, and character shapes the kind of people our students will become. That is why this tradition matters. It reminds us that every act of kindness, every moment of service, and every good choice is another piece of fruit that tells the world who we truly are.



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Comments, letters and articles are welcome!

Please send submissions to Lindsay Hyatt

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General Church in Canada Worship Services



Carmel New Church
Kitchener, ON
10 AM Sunday
in person & online



Dawson Creek New Church
Dawson Creek, BC



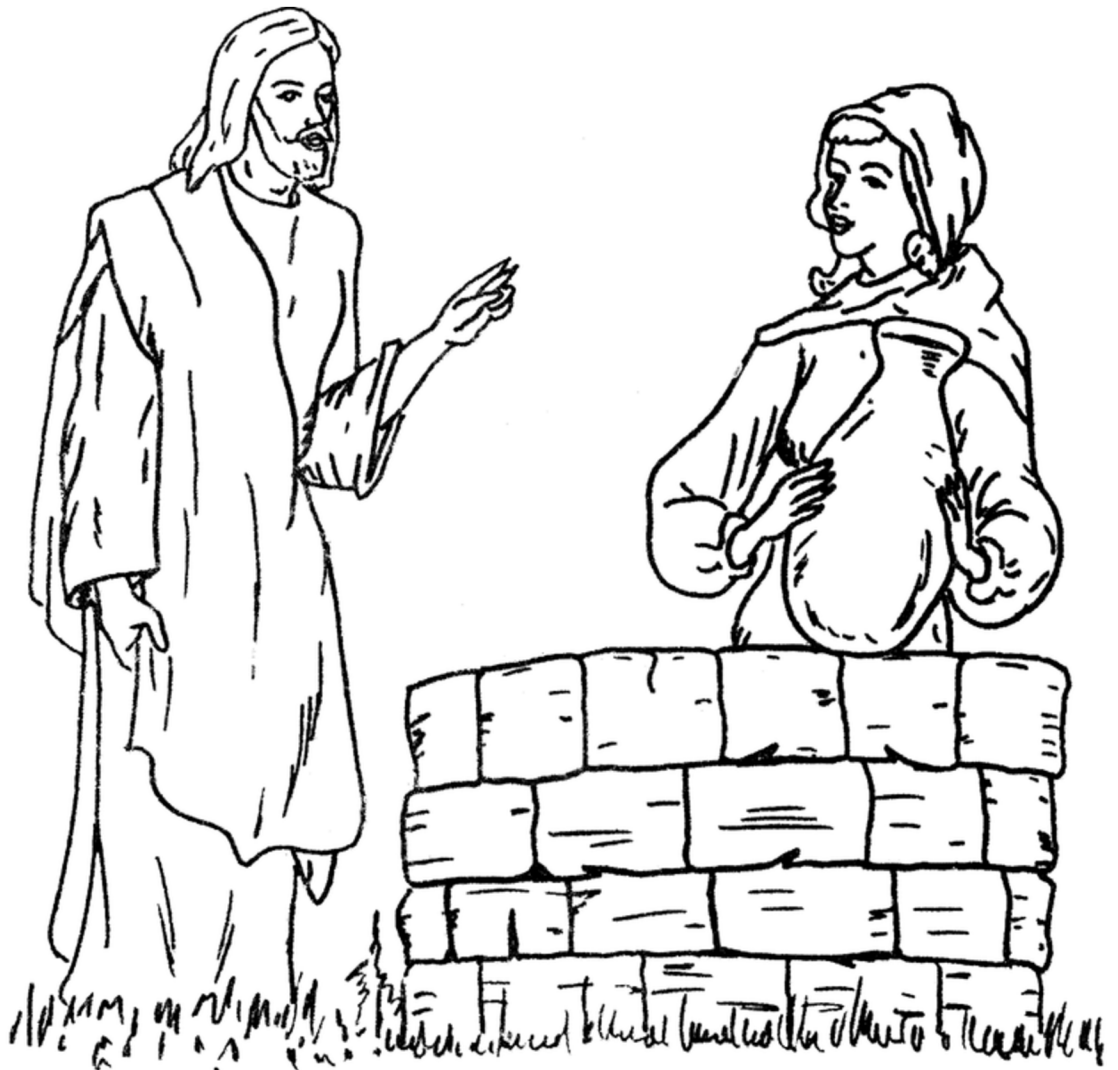
Olivet New Church
Etobicoke, ON
10:30 AM Sunday
in person & online



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The Woman at the Well



FROM THE EDITOR

Thank you to everyone who contributed to this issue of the New Church Canadian. Your articles help make each issue engaging and meaningful.

Submissions for the next issue are welcome by August 20, 2026. Please email your article to NCCEditor@outlook.com or mail it c/o Olivet New Church.