

Northern Lights

Regional Synod of Canada Inc., RCA

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Home Church Fraser Valley

When people ask me what Home Church is all about, I find it impossible to give a quick answer. Home Church is not the church of the 1960's, with cushioned pews and an organ. Home Church meets in the gym of an elementary school, in a neighborhood rife with poverty, drug addiction and broken families. This is a neighborhood in desperate need of God's help. The dress code at Home Church is casual and that includes the pastor. Occasionally, he will wear a tie, which causes me to wonder what the occasion is. Meeting in a school has its drawbacks such as having to set up the chairs, sound system and everything else early Sunday morning, and take it all down at the end of the service. Many volunteers make this possible.

The Home Church philosophy is that everyone has a contribution to make and during the morning worship part of the service, you will often see teenagers as young as 13 singing or playing the drums. It's important that we all bring our gifts and abilities to the Lord's service.

Pastor Jim's technical abilities show themselves every Sunday morning when the PowerPoint projector starts up. His PowerPoint presentations add that much needed visual connection to his messages. When we see as well as hear the message, we retain much more and Pastor "Techie" delights in creating eye catching presentations.

Home Church is known for its love of the community. Community outreach started when HCFV was less than three months old. Clothes-2-U was the first outreach project. This is the distribution of clothes and related items free to all who need them, from infant to senior. The outreach expanded to periodic movie nights where we treat the community to a family movie, Easter scavenger hunt for the children, and last year we had a Christian band perform along with a silent auction to raise money for victims of Hurricane Katrina. The Bringing up Boys video series has helped area families, and we have held marriage seminars to strengthen the marriages of community residents, both inside and outside the church. A women's ministry called "Women Encouraging Women" has flourished with the ladies getting together one weekday morning to share their thoughts and (of course) food. This program has encouraged many women and it is an excellent outreach tool for connecting with women who don't come to church.

If you come to Home Church, be prepared to eat. Almost everything has a food component to it. There is food at the Sunday service intermission ("Community Time"), to free lunch or pancake breakfast at our Clothes-2-U events. Hot Dogs at our summertime sports events, Souper-Sunday (where volunteers brought a pot of homemade soup for a post service luncheon), snacks at Home Group, and (from what I hear) delicious food at Women Encouraging Women.

Relationships are critical to building a

church and during the Sunday service; we always have an intermission (“Community Time”) before the sermon. At this time, the children go to their service and the adults have the opportunity to grab a cup of coffee and a treat. Pastor Jim strongly encourages everyone to make a point of connecting with someone and spreading the love. It’s a great way of greeting newcomers

Just like a child that deals with various issues while it’s growing up, Home Church is continually facing new challenges in its struggle to reach “adulthood”. There are the financial struggles of becoming self-supporting and as we get closer to that goal, we see how much we could use a central location for church offices, worship team practices, outreach events and more. This would not be where the church actually meets, but rather a central administrative location where many small group meetings could be held as well as various community programs such as Bringing up Boys, etc. Jim and Babette Moerman took a leap of faith when they started Home Church and the church has grown steadily. From this we learn that we need to step out in faith, following God’s direction and the way will become clear.

by Ernie Jantzen, Founding Member

A new tool with new possibilities!

The website for the **Regional Synod has been redesigned** and we invite you to visit it at www.reformed-church.com

1. Online registration form for the leadership conference.
2. There are administration areas for the various Synod and classis committees, as well as a pastor’ and NCD areas. These areas can only be accessed by username and password. For now, the username is always RSC and the password is the same as the name of the directory. (example - 'Admin') Menus and agendas can be kept here as well as reports.
3. Pages for each classis which the classes can update themselves once they get a copy of Frontpage or Dreamweaver software. As with committees pages, a

classis will only be able to update and change the pages within its own area.

4. The synod membership directory is in the Community area. This is also password protected, thus accessible only to those with such privileges. I hope churches, as Westdale has done, will send their membership directories as well. This will enable us to access anyone in the RSC in Canada.

5. Areas for our congregational news and/or newsletters are ready to be used.

In order for this site to be a blessing, it is up to the classes, churches and members of the Regional Synod to send us information and updates. Please send these to the webmaster as indicated in the site.

May God bless us as together we seek to glorify His name and extend His kingdom!

Pastor John Kapteyn

Our Vision for every church

Hurts being healed, the lost being found, the hungry being fed, peace-healing brokenness, hope replacing despair, lives transformed by the love of Jesus Christ.



R.R.#4, 1985 Beke Road, Cambridge, Ontario, CANADA N1R 5S5

Telephone: (519) 622-1777 • **Fax:** (519) 622-1993

Website: www.reformed-church.com

Contact: Fred Algera, Executive Secretary

E-mail: RSCAlgera@aol.com • falgera1@mts.net

Barb Laidlaw, Administration Manager

E-mail: RSClaidlaw@aol.com