

Northern Lights

Regional Synod of Canada Inc., RCA

Volume 5, Issue 1

March 2007

Introducing our new Executive Secretary

Rev. John Kapteyn has been named the Executive Secretary of the Regional Synod of Canada.

John and his wife, Margaret have three children and four grandchildren. John has been a pastor for 19 years, serving three churches in Canada, most recently Westdale Reformed Church in Hamilton, Ontario.

Kapteyn is a former teacher, banker, and accountant and a 1988 graduate of Western Theological Seminary.

He has been a member of the RCA task force on the responsibilities and roles of regional synods and classes, as well as a member of a Church Herald task force. He also has served as president of the Synod of Canada, the Classis of Ontario, and Countryside Camp. He has created and developed a number of websites and enjoys hiking and traveling.

Laurie Heron, President of the Regional Synod, said that she wanted to express the Synod's "gratitude and pleasure that John accepted the call to be our Executive Secretary. We are also excited about the Regional Synod being able to continue to implement the RCA 10

year goal under new leadership."

Kapteyn, enthusiastic about his new calling and about the future of the RCA in Canada, shares his love for the church and His Lord:

"I have a deep heart for the Reformed Church in Canada and for the lost. I have been an active member from childhood, entered seminary at the age of 37 for the purpose of ministering in Canada and have been very active in the overall ministry of the RCA in Canada.

Jesus gave His life for the lost. We are called to complete His work – not that we can add anything to what He has done, but to bring the Gospel into the world. I believe we need to nurture a passion for mission and ministry and we need to be good stewards of the resources and responsibilities God has placed upon us . "

John adds, *"The greatest thrill and joy I have is seeing God's people working together for a common goal"*.

John stated that he has found that there are some in the denomination who presently have a difficult time 'buying into' the denominational vision, goals and processes, including Church Multiplication and Coaching".

His immediate objective as the new Executive Secretary of the RSC, in conjunction with the denomination's ,

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Home Church Fraser Valley has been in existence now for a little more than four years. One of the discoveries we've made is that the most important number is not the attendance figure, not the offering collected and not the length of the sermon (in minutes, not hours!) The most important number is the number of first-time visitors who attend on a Sunday morning.

Sometime during our third year (2005), we noticed a problem. In the first full year of our churches' life, Home Church had 186 visitors (not including out-of-townners). In our second full year, we enjoyed 158 visitors. But in year three, we saw that drop to 99 visitors. Clearly, there was a problem. So that became a focus during the "state-of-the-church" sermons of early January 2006. One of those early Sundays, after coming to understand the importance of visitors, everyone

took a slip of paper and wrote down the number of visitors they'd like to see in 2006. Those slips were collected and tabulated with the average number 234. So we launched into 2006 with a faith goal of welcoming 234 visitors.

By the end of the year, we came up short - but just a little. We had welcomed 217 visitors, of which at least 27 stayed. Sensing a good thing, we went through the same process again and set a congregation-wide goal of welcoming 300 visitors in 2007! Because of this goal, people are quicker to invite others and be part of the action, they celebrate when a visitor walks through the door, and they are more intentional in connecting with visitors who may look uncomfortable or displaced.

Because those visitors are our most precious asset!

(Pastor, Jim Moerman)

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as well as the regional executive's vision and goals, is to visit with each classis executive, pastor and consistory, listen to them and share their dreams and goals, or lack thereof.

He says *"I want our vision to initiate from them. If that is the starting point and we can show how these tools tie into, empower and enable their dreams to become reality, I believe we can together own a shared vision for the RCA in Canada that comes from God. We need to have Christ's heart for the lost, commit ourselves to living for eternity rather than the 'here and now'".*

written and edited by: Rev. John Kapteyn and Mr. Bill Zwiep

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.



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