

May 3, 2022



General Assembly of the Presbyterian Church in Canada and Meet the Moderator

The 2022 General Assembly will be online from June 5 until June 8. This virtual gathering provides an opportunity for the church to consider matters affecting the ministry and mission of our denomination. Information will be posted on this page as it becomes available.

The Assembly considers matters affecting the ministry and mission of our denomination. Commissioners, who are responsible for the business of Assembly, will discern and make decisions. At Assembly, commissioners, young adult and student representatives will welcome ecumenical and interfaith guests. The Assembly will open with worship Sunday afternoon and will gather for worship daily.

The moderator of general assembly is The Rev. Dr. Bob Ferris, B.A., MDiv, M.Th., PhD

Bob is a lifelong Presbyterian who has an ecumenical spirit and openness to the new thing that God is doing. This has included more than 35 years of innovative ministry within the PCC. Bob has worked with the church in Mozambique and South Africa in the context of civil war and apartheid and recognizes the harms of social injustice.

The Rev. Ferris has taught many courses at our theological colleges. He was Director of the Canadian Churches' Forum for Global Ministries and the Churches' Council on Theological Education in Canada. He also served on the PCC's Church Doctrine Committee and was convener of both the Ecumenical and Interfaith Relations Committee and the Cutting Edge of Mission Committee. In 2011, Bob was called to St. Andrew's Church in downtown Toronto. He shares in worship leadership, coordinates Out of the Cold and Refugee Sponsorship programs

As a gay man, Bob has experienced the harm done to people who identify as LGBTQI2+ in the church. He rejoiced when last year's General Assembly adopted the remits that allowed for same sex marriage and the ordination of people in same sex relationships as well as all the recommendations brought by the Rainbow Communion.

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Bob doesn't believe that the church is beyond the divisions around sexuality and inclusion and knows that important discussions will continue to be part of the conversation that the church is having. "But decisions have been made and we are in the place where we are working out what it means to be the church with these new decisions," he said. "It is hard work, but it is where we are called to be. I hope we can still listen to each other and all the perspectives among us, recognizing that some of the voices we will hear now will be new."

Bob sees these two focuses as part of the larger issue of inequality and injustices in Canadian society and globally. He says that the church needs to understand the reality of injustices from a biblical and theological perspective and recall scripture's focus on God's call to justice.

From presbyterian.ca



Book Club

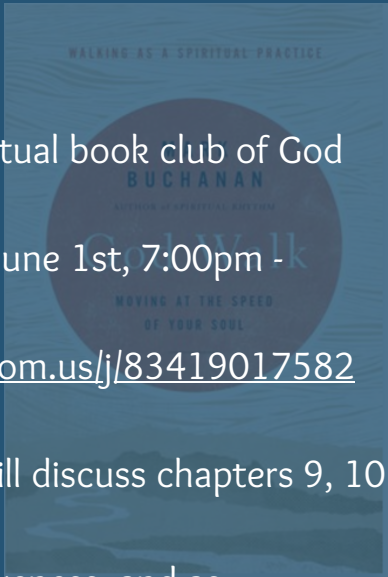
You are welcome to join the virtual book club of God Walk by Mark Buchanan.

When: Every Wednesday until June 1st, 7:00pm - 8:00pm

Zoom Link: <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/83419017582>

For the week of May 4th, we will discuss chapters 9, 10 & 11, which look at walking as prayer, as attentiveness, and as remembering.

For more information, please email Sabine Teetzel (steetzel@telus.net).



Staff Leave

Pastor Mitch is away from April 30th through May 9th. Please keep him and the students in your prayers as he teaches seminarians about transitional ministry.

The church office will be closed from May 5th to May 12th for a medical leave.

Please contact Colina or an elder if you have any needs for communication with St. Andrew's during these dates.

Thank you to our elders, volunteers and interim moderator who keep everything going smoothly during staff absence!

To read general assembly reports, to see a video message from the moderator and to learn more about general assembly 2022 [click here](#)

Read From Your Bible This Week

- Acts 9:36-43
- Psalm 23
- Revelation 7:9-17
- John 10:22-30

