



HARBOUR LIGHT CHURCH SYDNEY, NOVA SCOTIA

A congregation of the Presbyterian Church in America



The congregation was founded in 1935 as Westminster Presbyterian Church, by a group coming out of Bethel Presbyterian Church. At that time, the group purchased the building on George Street where they met until the construction of a new building in 1974, a building that is now paid off in full.

The congregation joined the Reformed Presbyterian Church, Evangelical Synod (RPCES) on January 1st 1971 having formerly belonged to the Bible Presbyterian Church denomination. On June 14 1982, the congregation became part of the Presbyterian Church in America when the PCA General Assembly agreed to accept the RPCES as a whole into its membership. Eleven pastors have served the congregation through its 88 year history.

In the Fall of 2018, the congregation called Ian Crooks to serve as pastor. Together with the elders, and as part of a commitment to a work of church revitalization, the decision was made in the spring of 2019 to relaunch the congregation as 'Harbour Light Church'. As a Session we realized that there was a great need for renewed spiritual health in the declining congregation. The desire was to see God's people become fruitful witnesses to the gospel to the lost in the city. The vision of Harbour Light Church was to see unbelievers of the city become committed followers of Jesus Christ, and for God's people to grow in spiritual health, as they grew personally, and as a church, in obedience to the Great Commission.



Harbour Light Church was officially launched in September of 2019 and began holding community outreach events. These included Christmas Carol Service, Thanksgiving Breakfast and Easter Brunch. An ESL course, reaching some of our international students, grew quickly until the Covid lockdown came into effect. Since restrictions were lifted we have been able to resume community

events, which have been well attended. In October 2022 we began hosting a guest supper on the first Sunday evening of each month, which currently attracts around 30 people. The church has also hosted two recent Christianity Explored courses which have seen spiritual fruit.



Cape Breton area is an area of outstanding beauty including the world famous Cabot Trail. Tourists, including thousands who arrive on cruise ships between May and October each year, are attracted from all over the world. The social and economic needs are great in this aging city which has suffered much economic decline in recent years. Sydney is a city of around 30,000 people along with a growing population of international students attending Cape Breton University. Harbour Light Church has been blessed to welcome some of these students to our fellowship. We believe there is a great need for gospel centred churches in Cape Breton where only 1% of people attend an evangelical church. Most main line Protestant churches have embraced liberalism while over 90% of people would identify as Roman Catholic.



In January 2023, Pastor Ian and his wife Rhoda accepted a call to another PCA work in Vernon, BC and will be leaving our church in May. As elders we have begun the search for a new pastor, thankful that over the last three years outside funding has been obtained for a full time ministry to continue.

We are looking for a pastor who will be a faithful preacher of God's Word at our 11.00am Sunday morning worship services which have around 30 in weekly attendance. In addition to Sunday mornings, he would be called to equip God's people in other teaching opportunities. The pastor would be someone who would continue to lead a work of church revitalization in leading by example in the work of community outreach. We see hospitality as an important tool for him to use as he would build relationships with church neighbours and church community. We would expect him to work closely with our two elders and assist them in pastoral care. In this respect his work would include hospital visitation, funerals and visitation with some of our elderly members. We have been blessed by external funding raised over the past three years to enable a full time ministry to continue. Funding would be available for a pastor to attend states meetings of Eastern Canada Presbytery.

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CHURCH

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