



# RETIRED MINISTERS TEAM

## (RMT) REPORT

APRIL 2024

# IMAGINE

PREPARED FOR THE 2024 FREE METHODIST CHURCH IN CANADA  
GENERAL CONFERENCE | APRIL 25-28 - TORONTO, ON

# RETIRED MINISTER'S TEAM REPORT

Report to General Conference 2024

## Members & Meetings

Colleen Zavrel (Team Lead), Rev. Vic Stonehouse, Rev. Lorraine Buffam, Phyllis Slessor (since January 2024), Grant Sigsworth (ex-officio Recording Secretary)

The RMT meets monthly on the third Thursday at 1:30pm, ET, on the Zoom platform.

We would like to thank Rev. Debbie Hogeboom and Rev. Stephen Bond for their service to this team and have regretfully accepted their resignations.

## Mandate of Retired Ministers Team

The Retired Ministers Team's mandate is to:

- A. Holistically care for FMCiC retirees as well as offer support to ministers and spouses within ten years of being eligible to retire;
- B. Encourage and facilitate the continuing productive service of our retirees;
- C. Advocate for and support ministers and spouses going through the retirement process.

The RMT continues to work towards the implementation of the "Connecting and Empowering Ministerial Retirees Initiative" Next Chapter Ministry Plan.

## What we have been doing

1. **Meetings**- Monthly meetings continue on the third Thursday of the month(summer off).
2. **Next Chapter Fall Webinars**- For the first five weeks of the year, seminars were held on such topics as Retiring Well, Avoiding Fraud, and Credit Concerns. Notable presentations also included Cam Taylor speaking on Grief and Loss; Matthew McEwen speaking on Dying Well; Jeff Haanen, author of the book AnUncommon Retirement speaking on Retiring with Continued Purpose; and a representative from 'Advisors with Purpose' speaking on Stewardship, Spending, and Setting Your House in Order. All were well received with an average attendance of twenty.
3. **Next Chapter Gatherings**- Gatherings took place in Montreal in March with fourteen Quebec pastors attending; and at Arlington Beach camp with five attending and Maple Grove Camp with seven attending. The gathering planned for Wesley Acres was cancelled.
4. **Connection Activities**- The Retired Ministers Team (RMT) email distribution list was edited and compiled with 172 names. In December a Christmas card with personalized envelopes was mailed out via Canada Post. Newsletters were e-distributed in March and December. As well, a letter was prepared to be sent to retirees upon their retirement, coming from the RMT to inform them about what we are doing and invite them to stay connected.

Submitted by:  
Colleen Zavrel, RMT Lead



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5. **Preparing for 2024 General Conference-** Looking forward to working with Ministry Centre staff and being part of the planning and implementing the Retirees and Spouses luncheon.
6. **Preparing for Regional Gatherings-** A video was created entitled “The Door to Retirement” which outlined the role of the RM. Banners, pens and printed copies of the newsletters were prepared for display with the purpose of informing and inviting all pastors to plan on joining this community and benefiting from the learning and connections that are taking place.
7. **Advocacy-** The RMT ministry plan report had as Recommendation #8: “That the FMCiC draft a report for the RMT on why it requires retired ministers and their spouses to spend an extended period away from the church out of which they retired. ”The RMT is actively collaborating with FMCiC leaders in researching and providing input into this concern.

We feel that momentum has begun, with progress being made in meeting the needs of FMCiC retirees, their spouses and pre-retirees with expanding benefits to all of the FMCiC.

Colleen Zavrel, RMT Lead