

An announcement has been made by your minister or the clerk of Session:  
“ A Visitation Team is coming to meet with our congregation on February 22nd, 2018 .” at 8pm

If you have never taken part in a Westminster Presbytery visitation, you likely wonder, “What is this all about?”

You may also be wondering, “What is Presbytery?” Another question might be, “Who is the Presbytery?”

The Presbytery is an open court of The Presbyterian Church in Canada. It is made up of the clergy currently employed at least half time in ministries within a given geographical area; and an equal number of ruling elders.

Each congregation is represented at Presbytery by their minister and a representative elder.

Westminster Presbytery meets at least eight times every year to conduct the business of the court and matters that concern the twenty six congregations and other ministries within its bounds. The work of the Presbytery is mainly accomplished by committees governed by the Presbytery’s Standing Orders. The committees are comprised of the ruling and teaching elders of the presbytery. Retired clergy and members of congregations who may, or may not be, elders are also included on many committees.

The Presbytery has oversight of all congregations within its bounds. To enable this oversight, the Presbytery’s Standing Orders require that each congregation be visited:

- every three years;
- whenever a clergy person leaves a ministry;
- and one year after a new minister is inducted into a congregation.

The Visitation Committee is elected at the June Presbytery meeting to enable the Presbytery to fulfill this responsibility. The Visitation committee is currently made up of 8-10 members. It reports to the Presbytery through the Ministry Committee.

In order to accomplish its responsibilities, the committee is divided into teams. A team will comprise of a clergy person(s), and ruling elder(s).

Beyond providing oversight, all congregational visits are made with the hope that the visitors may assist and encourage the congregation's ministry and mission.

In preparing for our visit, the congregation's leaders are expected to respond to a written questionnaire. The questionnaire is also made available to the members of the congregation who are encouraged to respond. The Session will also submit a current financial statement; and a copy of the current and the previous year's Annual Report. Other printed information about the congregation's ministry and mission is always received with interest by the visitation team.

The visitation team will normally attend worship on at least one Sunday and will meet as scheduled with the Session; the minister(s); and the Board of Managers, Deacons' Court, and/or finance and maintenance committee. The team is also willing to meet with interested members and adherents of the congregation.

The visitation team of Rev. Bob Garvin, Rev Brad Childs and Bev Feick (team leader) looks forward to our visit and to learning about your congregation's ministry and mission!

Questions about the visitation may be addressed to Rev Garvin, Rev Childs or Bev Feick.