



Spring 2019 Newsletter from the
Committee on Home Missions &
Church Extension (CHEX)

Continue steadfastly in prayer, being watchful in it with thanksgiving. At the same time, pray also for us, that God may open to us a door for the word, to declare the mystery of Christ, . . . (Col. 4:2-3)

The Presbytery currently has four mission efforts in various stages of development toward being organized, self-supporting churches. One work is in its final stages of financial support★, First Street began receiving support in January 2019 and Wilmington soon will◆, and one is still in the formative stage of becoming a financially-supported mission effort★. A Home Missions Coordinator has also begun the work of advancing the Presbytery's mission effort.

★ **Grace Fellowship OPC, Huron, OH Larry Oldaker**

This work is under the oversight of Covenant OPC, Mansfield, OH. Grace Fellowship has 23 members and attendance currently is in the low 20's. They have Sunday evening services on a monthly basis. The most recent and very encouraging development is a relationship with a church which has embraced Reformed and Covenantal theology as well as Presbyterian government. A plan has been developed to bring the two groups together and organized as a particular church of the OPC. See the links to learn more about how this is also making the mission effort known in the area.
www.sanduskyregister.com/story/201902260039
www.sanduskyregister.com/story/2019003120016
The financial support for this work is scheduled to end in 2020.

◆ **First Street Reformed Fellowship, Dayton, OH Brad Peppo**

This work began meeting downtown for evening services in August under the oversight of the session of Covenant, Vandalia, OH. Pastor Brad Peppo has been serving the group as organizing pastor and was recently approved for denominational support. Present membership is 26 with an average attendance of 30. Several members are also meeting for weekly morning theology study, for small group prayer and Bible study, and for monthly discussion with skeptics. In December the group conducted a caroling outreach. Pray that the participants would continue to grow together as a core group, and that the group would find fruitful avenues of outreach. Financial support began January 2019.





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◆ **Wilmington Reformed Church, Wilmington, OH**

Under the oversight of a committee of the Presbytery (Rev. Brad Peppo, Mr. Tom Dizer, and Mr. Nathan Jones), this mission work began meeting for morning worship in March on the campus of Wilmington College. They have regular midweek studies as well. Membership is 52 with an average attendance of 56. One man has been approached as a possible elder candidate and is considering whether to begin training. This mission work has been meeting for morning worship since March 2018 on the campus of Wilmington College. They have regular midweek studies for the whole group, for men, and for women, and have engaged in a number of outreach activities. Present membership is 54 with an average attendance of 65. Several new visitors have been expressing an interest in joining. The work overseen by a committee of the Presbytery (Rev. Brad Peppo, Mr. Tom Dizer, and Mr. Nathan Jones) which extended a call to Stephen Lauer to be the organizing pastor, and who will take up his call in late Spring, at which time financial support will also begin.

Elder Mike Diercks at Providence OPC began his work as the Presbytery's RHMC effective January 1, 2019. He helped the CHEX committee establish an Operating Manual which will help the committee guide sessions and mission works through the church planting process. In addition, the RHMC has been visiting congregations and mission works. These visits entail sharing what God is doing in the Presbytery related to the various mission works, plans for the future and how every congregation can be involved in church planting. He has several instructional classes (which could be done during the discipleship hour or another time) entitled "Connecting the Church and the Community", "Evangelism and Kingdom Discussions", and "Becoming a Welcoming Church". It is the desire of the committee for the RHMC to visit churches and sessions throughout the presbytery to share the work on Home Missions. Please contact Mike Diercks (mike.diercks@gmail.com or 614-937-1018) to schedule your visit.

◆ **Living Hope Fellowship, Hermitage/Sharon, PA**

Work continues at Living Hope Fellowship in Sharon, PA under the oversight of the session of Covenant/Grove City, PA, with multiple ministers from the presbytery taking turns to preach each week. One attendee recently made profession of faith and is attending Covenant in the morning and Sharon in the afternoon. COPC-GC is currently searching for an associate pastor with particular gifts in preaching, teaching, outreach, and discipleship that can be used, in part, with making connections in the Sharon/Hermitage community. Pray that the Lord will bless these efforts with much good fruit