



Synod of CNOB
Synod of Central, Northeastern Ontario and Bermuda
The Presbyterian Church in Canada

Rev. Jonathan Tait Regional Minister for Congregational Health, Synod of CNOB

Synod Report October 2026

1. Visits to presbyteries:

- This fall I will visit the eighth of twelve presbyteries in our synod to formally introduce myself.

2. Ongoing meetings:

- I continue to meet with the Rev. John Borthwick (*Centre for Lifelong Learning* at Knox College) on a regular basis.
- I continue to meet regularly with the three general presbyters in our synod both collectively and individually. I see this as a critical part of our work together.
- On September 14th I (and a few other regional leaders) met with the Change Leadership Team/Special Commission. A follow-up meeting is planned for October.

3. Ministry in the synod:

- I am currently engaged in ongoing work with eight congregations in our synod as well as three presbyteries. There is no shortage of things for me to do. Prioritizing needs and assessing willingness to “put the work in” is a critical part of this role and ministry.
- The top three requests I receive remain stable.
They are:
 - 1. Elder training
 - 2. Conflict, and
 - 3. “What do we do next?”
- I will be attending the upcoming *Exploring Transitional Ministry Pathways* retreat at Crieff Hills in November.
- Camp Cairn:
 - I participated in the Camp commissioning on July 3rd and was camp chaplain for a week this summer. Camp is such a significant part of faith formation for so many people, it is a

great joy and privilege to serve in this way. I plan to be back in these capacities for the 2027 season.

4. Workshops:

- I led my Eldership 101 & 102 workshop with numerous congregation as well as a cluster of congregations and will lead it for a presbytery in late October. It continues to be a popular and much needed workshop. Every time I lead tweaks are made thanks to the feedback provided by participants. Thank you to members of the Regional Consultative Committee for assistance with producing a feedback form.

5. Reading:

- I continue to actively seek out and read various books, articles, and related materials. Some of the books I have read recently include:
 - *We Aren't Broke: Uncovering Hidden Resources for Mission and Ministry* by Mark Elsdon.
 - *The Spiritual Turn: The Religion of the Heart and the Making of Romantic Liberal Modernity* by Galen Watts.
 - *Strong Ground: The Lessons of Daring Leadership, The Tenacity of Paradox, and the Wisdom of the Human Spirit* by Brené Brown.
 - *Falling Upward: A Spirituality for the Two halves of Life* by Richard Rohr.
 - *The Body Keeps Score: Brain, Mind, And Body In The Healing of Trauma* by Bessel van der Kolk.
- Up Next:
 - 4 Book Series: 1. *Leading Through Resistance*, 2. *The Mission Always Wins*, 3. *How Not to Waste a Crisis*, and 4. *Invest in Transformation* by Tod Bolsinger.
 - *Friendship With Christ* by John Vissers.
 - *Baal and the Gods of More: Rescuing Church Growth from Idolatry* by Andrew Root.
 - *The Stories Congregations Tell: Flourishing in the Face of Transition and Change* Joel Thiessen, Arch Chee Keen Wong, Mark D. Chapman Eds.

- *Why Religion Went Obsolete: The Demise of Traditional Faith in America* by Christian Smith.
- *Can our Church live: Redeveloping Congregations in Decline* by Alice Mann.
- *Thriving Intercultural Ministry: Transforming Hearts, Relationships, and Systems in Community* by Pablo Kim Sun.

6. Keeping apprised of the current ecclesial landscape:

➤ Webinars Attended:

- I have attended numerous Webinars through the *Ministry Forum/Centre for Lifelong Learning* at Knox College. I try not to miss any and have found them to be extremely helpful and informative.
- I have also attended several webinars through the *Flourishing Congregations Institute at Ambrose University in Calgary Alberta*.
- I attended Carey Nieuwhof's 2-part webinar series entitled *What AI Is Doing To Your Church* in September.
- I have also attended or viewed recordings of most webinars hosted by the PCC as well as various others.

7. Continuing Education:

- I continue working towards my *Certificate in Conflict Management and Congregational Leadership* through the University of Waterloo and Conrad Grebel University. My most recent course work includes the *Forming Peaceable Congregations* course, and a webinar entitled *Giving and Receiving Feedback*. This accreditation is designed to be completed over a minimum of two years. With completion of these two offerings, I will be slightly over halfway finished.
- The *Intercultural Church Cohort* pilot program in Toronto took place September 25th. I was at Armour Heights PC participating in the day and led in welcoming and Communion.
- On October 3rd I will be attending the workshop *Like Christ: Spiritual practices the Holy Spirit uses to make you more like Christ* led by Rev. Dr. John Vissers hosted by the Presbytery of Barrie.