

Overture to Classis Niagara to Amend the 2022 Budget

In light of the additional Classis Meeting, Covenant CRC, St Catharines, would like to ask Classis Niagara to amend the 2022 budget by removing the line item for the Bridge App. Information regarding usage and cost have come to light since our meeting in October and this additional classis meeting, prior to 2022, affords us the opportunity to address this issue.

Since the October Classis Meeting, our Classis Treasurer, Joanne Drenth-VanDyke, has been in conversation with the denominational Bridge App Program Manager, Dorothy VanderSteen, and in digging through the data some realities have come to light (see Appendix 1, “ Bridge App Usage Analysis – Nov 2021”). Currently, relative to membership, there are four churches whose usage of the Bridge App is minimal (<5%), six churches where it is extensive (>30%) and four of moderate usage (6-30%). There is no data for usage by the Table, though that ministry is included in the assessment. Additionally, because of the number of churches in Classis Niagara, we lay below the threshold for a reduction in the per-church assessment of \$450 per year.

The result is that there is no pricing advantage by paying as a Classis for the Bridge App as opposed to paying as individual churches. Additionally, Classis is paying for a service that four churches are either not using or using minimally; at a cost of \$1,800 (five churches and \$2,250 if the Table is included).

Motion

Covenant CRC overtures Classis Niagara to remove the line item from the 2022 Classis Niagara Budget for the Bridge App (See Classis Expense Fund, The Bridge App - \$6,800). Churches who wish to continue use of the Bridge App can continue to subscribe individually.

Grounds:

1. Paying the assessment as a Classis provides no collective benefit in a per church price reduction, but the opposite in an additional cost for a service that is not used by some of the churches.

2021 May-Oct												
Church	Households (number of families) (from Report 2)	Household Contacts (number of members) (from Report 2)	Total Users who have downloaded the app (from Report 2)	ACTIVE users	INACTIVE Users	Logins (initial login plus additional login count for each feature they use)	Change in # users 2020-2021	# logins per active user in 6 mo.	Avg # logins per user per month	Percentage of Members who have downloaded the app	Percentage of users who are active	
Bethany CRC - Fenwick	158	443	100	68	32	43164	25	635	106	23%	68%	
Bethel CRC - Dunnville	171	498	85	64	21	23622	7	369	62	17%	75%	
Covenant CRC - St. Catharines	259	588	12	2	10	150	2	75	13	2%	17%	
Faith Fellowship - Niagara Falls	58	117	5	3	2	381	1	127	21	4%	60%	
Fruitland CRC	134	296	3	1	2	73	0	73	12	1%	33%	
Grace CRC - Welland	96	212	22	12	10	1402	3	117	19	10%	55%	
Jubilee Fellowship	237	490	43	22	21	7007	4	319	53	9%	51%	
Mountainview CRC	339	718	186	139	47	70926	34	510	85	26%	75%	
Providence CRC - Beamsville	144	376	196	144	52	114881	0	798	133	52%	73%	
Riverside CRC - Wellandport	96	317	46	24	22	8442	-2	352	59	15%	52%	
Smithville CRC	167	471	117	78	39	16208	5	208	35	25%	67%	
The Bridge - Niagara Falls	9	11	10	4	6	18747	-1	4687	781	91%	40% ?	
The Village Church	1	0	29	0	29		-1			0%	0%	
Trinity CRC - St. Catharines	63	125	36	21	15	5200	-3	248	41	29%	58%	
Totals			890	582	308	310203	74	533	89		65%	
This report shows the user activity for the churches in Classis Niagara for the specified time periods.												