Pastor’s Retreat Report - March 3-5, 2025, Crieff Hills Community

United in their practices of Spiritual Direction, retreat organizers Pastor Sid Couperus (Classis Huron) and Anita Plat-Kuiken (Classis Southwest) envisioned a time where Pastors in CRCNA in Eastern Canada could come together to settle in with God and be renewed. Entitled “Listening to God, Leaning into Lent”, the goal of the event was to give those in attendance the opportunity to move forward on their respective spiritual journeys through the elements of inspirational worship, guided learning and listening, along with rest and reflection. They welcomed Pastor Phil Reinders (Classis Toronto) and musician Jeremy Zeyal to help them fulfill their purpose.

Over the course of their time together, participants had the chance to step away from their regular routines and reconnect with their sense of calling, purpose, and spiritual grounding. The retreat was designed to gently introduce a number of spiritual disciplines and create space to practice listening in a supportive setting. Through guided sessions, teachings, quiet reflection, and thoughtful conversation, the retreat offered space for both learning and renewal.

Feedback from participants was encouraging. Many shared that the time away was restorative and timely, and **all indicated they would be interested in attending a similar retreat in the future**. Their openness and engagement shaped the experience in important ways, and we’re thankful for how the group gelled to be a safe container for the Spirit to work in.

Building on what was learned, the retreat organizers plan to offer this kind of gathering again. The hope is to create more opportunities for pastors to experience support, renewal, and encouragement by making space to deeply connect with God, their constant companion, as they continue to serve in challenging and ever-changing ministry contexts.

We’re grateful to the sponsors whose support made this gathering possible. Your investment in the well-being of pastors is deeply appreciated and made a meaningful difference.

With appreciation,

Anita Plat-Kuiken Pastor Sid Couperus

Outreach Ministry Developer for Classis ON SW Classis Huron Prayer Catalyst