

St. Andrew's Session
Meeting notes from September 14th, 2020

WE ARE WORKING TO SERVE YOU!

SESSION NEWS

As most of you know, Session approved 8 selected Serving Elders to make up a Summer Session Team to work throughout the summer to deal with any and all COVID related matters.

We, would like extend 'Thank You' to **Rev. Ricardo Gouvea** (our Guest Minister in July) and **Rev. Wayne Baswick** (our Guest Minister in late August) while Rev. Geoff Ross was on vacation.

We would also like to extend huge 'Thank You' to: **Thomas Dewar** for coming forward and offering your gifts and talents in putting together video recordings by our Senior Choir and Leap of Faith bands for Sunday services; and **Simpson Ross** for operating the audio and visual equipment for St. Andrew's Facebook Lives services.

THE PLAN TO RESUME IN-CHURCH SERVICES

Reopening the Church: The Session Summer Team has been diligently meeting and working together throughout the summer months to put together protocols, in compliance with all levels of government (Municipal, Provincial & Federal) and the PCC. The below Phases are tentative and can change.

PHASES	TENTATIVE DATE	DETAILS
Phase 1	Sun., Oct. 18 th , 2020	One Worship Service only 10:30 am
Phase 2(a)	Sun., Nov. 15 th , 2020	Move to Two Worship Services 10:30 am 2:30 pm S-EAO Congregation
Phase 3(a)	Sat., Nov.29 th , 2020	SDA Congregation Following all Protocols
Phase 3(b)	Sun., Nov. 30 th , 2020	If safe to do so: St. Andrew's Senior Choir St. Andrew's LOF Band
Phase 4	January 2021	If safe to do so: St. Andrew's Food Bank Tuesday Morning Bible Study Session Meeting All Committee Night Meeting
Phase 5	March 2021	If safe to do so: all Renters SDA Bible Study/Prayer Groups

WHAT TO EXPECT FOR IN-CHURCH SERVICES

The following protocols will be in place when we resume in-Church services, and will be modified as the phases change. We know that these protocols may seem awkward or extreme but they are in compliance with the current COVID19 guidelines. We ask that you respect that these protocols are for you – and everyone's – safety and wellbeing.

- Pre-registration will be required. The church will be using EventBrite for our online registration; I link for this site will be posted on our Church website.
- Registration will also be possible by calling and emailing the Church Office at 905-4521-1723 or office@standrewsbrampton.ca
- Masks will be mandatory. If you forgot yours a mask will be provided.
- The parking lot will be for our senior members and persons who have handicap parking. Entry will be through the parking lot door.
- All other congregants are asked to park at Rosalea Park. Entry will be through the Southeast door (courtyard),
- When entering a volunteer will greet you for temperature taking and COVID19 related questions.
- A registration table will be in the Great Hall for Contact Tracing.
- Please arrive early enough to allow some extra time for the ushers to show you to your seats.
- As we are not able, at this time, to use Bulletins, Hymnals, or Bibles. The service will be projected on the newly installed screens.
- We are also not able, at this time, to have congregational singing.
- We are not able to share in Coffee Fellowship after the service.
- The Kitchen, Education Wing and upstairs rooms will remain closed.
- As the Sunday School classrooms are closed, Children must remain with their parents. It is encouraged that parents bring activity sheets with them. These sheets will be uploaded on our Facebook page that can be printed.
- Please maintain physical distancing at all times both inside and outside the Church, before or after the services.

HOW YOU CAN HELP!!

In order to resume in-Church services, we will need your help! Each Sunday volunteers (10-15) will be needed to assist with making our in-person worship safe for all. These positions include and not limited to:

- Checking temperatures and COVID questions at point to entrance
- Providing hand sanitizer to all in attendance
- Manage the sign-in table for contact tracing
- Ushering attendees to their seats
- Monitoring the hallways during service
- Monitoring the washrooms and cleaning after each use
- Cleaning of all high-touch areas in the Sanctuary, Great Hall, and entry zones.

HOW YOU CAN KEEP IN TOUCH

The Session is concerned about you and wants you to feel connected! We are trying to do this in a few ways.

- **Email:** The best, fastest, and cost-effective method of communicating to the entire congregation would be by email – sadly, we only have emails for about 50-60% of the congregation. We would like to keep you as up to date as quick as possible by using email eblasts to send out updates and other information. We need your email: send an email to socialmedia@standrewsbrampton.ca and put “**Email Address**” in the Subject line.
- **Social Media: Facebook.** We have a Facebook page ([St. Andrew's Presbyterian Church – Brampton](#)); we also have a Facebook page for Sunday School ([St. Andrew's Presbyterian Church – Brampton Sunday School](#)).
- **YouTube:** We have also created a YouTube channel: [St. Andrew's Presbyterian Church: Brampton](#). The services, hymns and Bible readings are posted here to watch anytime. Please look click the link above and subscribe.

If you do not use the internet, and would like to speak with your Elder about how to stay in touch – or, if you're not sure who your Elder is – please contact our Clerk of Session at clerk@standrewsbrampton.ca.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

Property Committee: Church Security: The Property Committee has been diligently working on the safety of the Church building. There was also a zoom meeting with local Counselors and the Superintendent of Police to discuss security issues outside the building. As a result of the meeting, the motion sensors and video cameras have all been updated.

Locks: All of the outside door locks have been changed. Keys will only be given out on a need basis at this time. Please contact Richard McMechan, Property Chair, to enquire and/or reserve a key.

Building Access is still limited and is extremely important that permission is granted prior to any one entering the building and/or before any dates are published. Due to by-laws and protocols put in place by all levels of government and also by our insurance company, **this protocol must be adhered to.** Requests **must** be submitted in writing with all details out, so the team can discuss. Please send your request by email to **Access Team:** the team members are: Richard McMechan (Property Co-Chair), Peter Shepherd (Property Co-Chair), Kim Shepherd (Clerk of Session), Jean Bradshaw (Deputy Clerk of Session) and Rev. Geoff Ross (Lead Minister).

Other Items: In preparation for the resumption of in-Church worship services, the Session has approved the installation of two TV monitors in the sanctuary. This decision was made to facilitate our worship services as we are not permitted to use bulletins, hymnals, Bibles, or have live choirs during service.

Worship Committee: Online Services: Rev. Geoff Ross will continue to do Facebook Live services. Our Music Director is also uploading hymns for weekly services through YouTube. Links for both the hymns, the Scripture Readings and the Facebook Live service will be posted on the St. Andrew's website, www.standrewsbrampton.ca.

Pastoral Care: If you know of someone who needs pastoral care due to illness or personal strife, please notify Rev. Geoff Ross 647-524-1870 (geoff@standrewsbrampton.ca) or the Congregational Care Team so we can provide appropriate care: (wecare@standrewsbrampton.ca) If you would like to speak with your Elder but you're not sure who your Elder is, contact our Clerk at clerk@standrewsbrampton.ca.

Stewardship Committee: The Stewardship Committee thanks you for your continued – and faithful – support the ministry of St. Andrew's. While our expenses are significantly lower than this time last year, we are anticipating an increase in costs as we move into the fall and our hope-for resumption of weekly services and other aspects of Church life. If you have questions about how you can support St. Andrew's, we have provided (below) a list of options available for you to choose from.

THE WAYS YOU CAN SUPPORT ST. ANDREW'S

Thank you for your continued support for the ministry of the Church during this difficult and unprecedented time that we are navigating. As you are able, please continue your financial support of the church, there are several ways for you to continue your support of St. Andrew's:

- Using your **debit or credit card** by visiting our Donate page on St. Andrew's website <http://standrewsbrampton.ca/donate-today/>
- **You can give online through an e-transfer.** Here are the steps to follow:
 1. Go to your banking website, select Interac e-Transfer, and enter the amount you wish to donate.
 2. Please use this email for the interact e-transfers: treasurer@standrewsbrampton.ca
 3. In the message area please indicate your name, envelope number and how you want the donation distributed: how much to: General Funds, Presbyterians' Sharing, PWS&D and Food Bank. If you do not indicate a split your entire donation will go to the general operating fund, and **this cannot be changed later.**
- You can sign up for **PAR.** The PAR registration for also be located <http://standrewsbrampton.ca/donate-today/> .
- **Regular Post:** You can also mail in your regular Offering Envelopes to the church; please use a cover envelope addressed to the church: 44 Church Street East, Brampton, Ontario, L6V 1G3. All mail has been securely redirected. Please only mail cheques (no cash please).

P – Pray, **C** – Contact friends & family, **C** – Contribute to the ministries of St. A's