

St. Andrew's Session

Meeting notes from September 13th, 2021

WE ARE WORKING TO SERVE YOU!

SESSION NEWS

At its first meeting of the Fall, the Session would like to thank those who helped guide St. Andrew's through the summer. In June, Session approved 5 selected Serving Elders to make up a Summer Session Team to work throughout the summer to deal with any and all COVID related matters. On your behalf, we thank Kim Shepherd, Jean Bradshaw, Richard McMechan, Anna-Marie Dewar, Eunice Boyd for their dedication to serving St Andrew's. We also thank Colin Young and Pam Loree for their ongoing assistance. We would like to extend 'Thank You' to **Rev. Wayne Baswick** (our Guest Minister in July and last week of August) while Rev. Geoff Ross was on vacation.

THE PLAN TO RESUME IN-PERSON/IN-CHURCH SERVICES

Reopening the Church: The Session discussed and approved a proposal to resume In-Person/in-Church Worship (morning service only). The proposed date for returning to in-person/in-Church worship is Sunday, October 17th, 2021, which also happens to be Anniversary Sunday. This will be a phased re-opening – with us only resuming Sunday morning worship services at this time. It was also agreed that we will be continuing with the Hybrid model (both in person and live streaming online). The current format of Sunday Worship will stay the same. **PLEASE NOTE:** This is only a proposed re-opening date; the Session will review the situation at its October 4th meeting before we finalize our decision.

Session is continuing to work on Protocols which follow the current restrictions and guidelines from both the Government of Ontario's and the Peel Region. We do know the following:

- Pre-registration will be required. The church will be using EventBrite for our online registration – a link for this site will be posted on our 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
- 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
- We must maintain physical distancing at all times both inside and outside the Church, before or after the services.

We would like to 'Thank You' for your patience, understanding and most of all your trust during the time that we have been closed. Your safety and the safety of all who attend St. Andrew's is important to us as we discuss moving forward.

ELDER ELECTION

With many away over the summer months and awaiting for responses from those who have been approached, it was approved that the Ordination of New Elders be moved from September 12th to Sunday, September 26th, 2021 to allow Rev. Geoff Ross to continue to fill the open Elder terms.

ST. ANDREW'S IS A POLLING STATION

The Church grounds will be busy on Monday September 20th, 2021 as St. Andrew's will be a polling station for the 2021 Federal Election.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

Property Committee: *"Working Bees Have Been Busy!"*

The Property Committee were busy at work this past weekend, in preparation of not only the day of election but for opening for in-person worship.

- ✓ The asbestos removal has been finished. The next step is to have the insulation placed under the sanctuary and around the boiler.
- ✓ The handicap bathroom has been fixed
- ✓ Items from the stage and the basement are currently in Room 109 until after the election. Plans are being worked on to safely store the items.

Building Access: due to the continuing restrictions, permission to enter the building is still a must. Please send an email to: entryteam@standrewsbrampton.ca. Please give as much notice as possible for your request. This is important as the whole team needs to be aware of the request – and to arrange a time to let you in.

Worship Committee: The Online Services will continue on live on Facebook. We thank Peter Shepherd, Simpson Ross, and Justin Kelly-Boxe for their tech support in streaming the service during the summer. Links for the Online Bulletin and the Live service are posted on both the St. Andrew's Facebook page website, www.standrewsbrampton.ca.

Pastoral Care: If you know of someone who needs pastoral care, 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 our Clerk of Session, 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. Currently general offerings from January 1 to August 23 are \$631.93 below our 2020 offering givings – which is remarkable! The good news is that, due to our two film rentals our rental revenue is up over \$47,000 for the same period. Other good news is that our Operating Line of Credit remains at \$0.00. We have seen an increase in our online giving options – which is both remarkable (since we didn't have any two years ago) and encouraging. We thank you all for your generosity at this difficult and demanding time.

THANK YOU FOR YOUR SUPPORT TO ST. ANDREW'S