

St. Andrew's Session
Meeting Notes from January 10, 2022

WE ARE WORKING TO SERVE YOU!

SESSION NEWS

The Postponement of the In-Person Worship Continues

In response to the rapidly rising Omicron/COVID variant case numbers, on December 30 – by an email vote – the Session voted to postpone our In-Person/In-Church worship services. This was done out of concern for the safety and health of those who were attending our service, the volunteers who served as our “Welcome Teams” each Sunday, and our Worship Team who led worship and helped with the online broadcasting of the service. At that time, the Session agreed to review its decision at the January 10th Session meeting. Unfortunately, after the Christmas/New Year’s season, the case numbers are still high – and **the Session has decided to extend the postponement of the In-Person/In-Church worship until the February 7th Session Meeting.**

Reminder: During this postponement, the online service will continue **live on Facebook every Sunday at 10:30am, and will be posted to the website** for you to access whenever you want.

Leading with Care

A Leading with Care workshop is overdue. Leading with Care is a zero-tolerance denominational policy for ensuring a climate of safety for children, youth and vulnerable adults across the Presbyterian Church in Canada. In 2021, the General Assembly adopted the “*Policy and Procedures for Addressing Harassment in the Church.*” This policy and accompanying procedures will be added to the 2022 Leading with Care workshop.

This workshop is mandatory for all Elders, Committee Convenors and members, Food Bank volunteers, Sunday School teachers, Ushers, the S-EAOM pastoral team, and volunteers. You are included if you do any other volunteer work at St. Andrew’s. The seminars will start at 10 a.m. and run for about 2 ½ hours. **To enable you to attend, two seminars are currently scheduled for February 15 and 26, 2022 for you to pick a date.** (These dates are subject to change due to COVID.) It is important to note that you will attend only **one** workshop so please mark these dates in your calendar. More information will be forthcoming.

St. Andrew’s Food Bank an “essential ministry”

In order to ensure that our Food Bank can continue to serve its clients – and to comply with the many protocols and restrictions set in place by the Provincial Government, **the Session voted in favour of formally acknowledging that the Food Bank is an essential ministry to St. Andrew’s Presbyterian Church, Brampton.** We ask that you please continue to pray for our clients – and at-risk neighbours!

New Members:

Some other good news! Despite COVID – and our sanctuary and building being closed, and our worship services and programs being online – God is still sending people to us! As a result of our online services – a ministry option we did not have prior to March 2020 – at its January meeting, Session received two new members by transfer, and five members by profession of faith. A date to receive them formally is to be determined.

2021 General Assembly Remits, Studies, Reports & Actions

The Session reviewed, approved, and adopted the remits, studies, reports, and actions arising from the work of the 2021 General Assembly.

Want Access to the Building? Contact the Entry Team

Session reminds everyone that it is crucial to get permission from the Entry Team before planning on going to the building. You can do this by emailing your request to entryteam@standrewsbrampton.ca. Thank you for your understanding and patience.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

Stewardship Committee

The preliminary 2021 financial report shows that, at year end, we had a positive balance in our bank account, and the Line of Credit has been at zero for the whole year. Thank you for your continued support of St. Andrew’s.

2022 Offering Envelopes:

Your 2022 Offering Envelopes are Available! On **Saturday, January 15 and 22**, Bea Embling and Valerie Warren will be at St. Andrew’s to hand out the 2022 offering envelopes. To pick up your envelopes, please come to the church parking lot and follow the directions. You will need to remain in your car, and wear a mask. Once you’ve been identified, your envelopes will be brought to you. **Please look in the upcoming February Newsletter for more details.** Those members of the afternoon Urdu service, please contact Samina Babar for your envelopes.

Property Committee

The Committee is planning a work event weekend to do other maintenance. A sub-contractor has been contacted to do some much needed repairs to the manse. **Help wanted!** This Committee will lose two of its members at the end of January, as their terms of office come to a close. Session thanked the members of this Committee for their faithful service to St. Andrew’s.

Christian Education

Work on a Pre-Lent event for **March 2, 2022** has started! We hope to see you!

Congregational Care

The Pastoral Care continues! The Congregational Care Team sent out three sympathy cards to members who lost loved ones in December. 66 members and eleven groups also received prayers from the St. Andrew’s Prayer Circle.