

St. Andrew's Session **Session Summary from February 6, 2023**

WE ARE WORKING TO SERVE YOU!

SESSION NEWS

The Session welcomed four new elders – John Collins, who has become an elder for the first time. Also, Rosalind Cammidge, Colin Young and Stan Loree renewed their vows and returned to the Session. I ask that you pray for the Session as they go forward to do God's work and serve St. Andrew's. The Session has three vacancies, and Rev. Geoff Ross will continue approaching nominees to fill these positions.

Roles in the Session

There are some roles in Session that our Elders filled:

- Communion Elders: Samina Babar and Robyn Kirkpatrick
- Presbytery Rep: Rosalind Cammidge
- Alternate Rep: Stan Loree
- Leading With Care: Sandra Jackson

Thank you to all these Elders, and we ask that you give them your support.

Baptisms and New Members

Session approved the Baptism of Jesimile Jesse, the infant son of Jesse Bashir and Sundrella Siraj, which will take place on February 12, 2023. The Session also approved the Reception of Urooj Nomen and Jessie Bashir. They will become members of St. Andrew's on March 26, 2023.

Volunteers Needed

As St. Andrew's is gradually returning to "normal," we – like many other churches and organizations – are experiencing a drop in volunteers to help with our various programs and activities that we have long enjoyed. The commitment does not have to be great – or ongoing – but we do need volunteers on both weekly, monthly, or an occasional basis.

Committee Members Needed

We need volunteers on our Committees. God has blessed us with many gifts and talents, so what are yours? The Committees are Worship (Karen Hutchinson), Mission (Robyn Kirkpatrick), Christian Education (Jean Bradshaw), Stewardship (Helen Collins), and Property (Stan Loree).

Worship Service Volunteers Needed

On Sundays, we are looking for Duty Elders to help with security and safety during services – (Elders and Supporting Elders, expect to hear from June Young). Also on Sundays, we're looking for people to make up our Welcoming Teams for our service, and for help with hosting the Coffee Fellowship after the service. If you are interested in helping with any of these, please contact the Clerk of Session, Jean Bradshaw, at clerk@standrewsbrampton.ca.

Return to Meeting in Person

The Session voted return to in-person meetings (with an online option) for its March meeting – 3 years since the last in-person meeting!

COMMITTEE REPORTS

Christian Education

Confirmation Classes for our Youth (12 – 19): These classes begin on Sunday, February 19 and run to March 26, and the service takes place on April 2, 2023. A light lunch will be provided for the participants, and this will be a joint undertaking between our morning and afternoon services. Contact Jean Bradshaw: 905-455-6573

Mission Committee

Members of the Committee visited the Ukrainian refugees with gifts of hats, scarves, and mitts. They were thankful for the gifts and the visit from the members. Their needs are significant, and they are looking for used cars that they can get certified.

Stewardship Committee

The Financial Report for January shows that our offerings are down. We are struggling to meet our Operating Expenses, and we will utilize our Line of Credit by the end of January. One of the items that the Stewardship Committee want to emphasize is the importance of having a regular, steady source of revenue – and the best way to achieve this is through the PAR (Pre-Authorized Remittance) Program. Increasing the percentage of members using the PAR Program to cover St. Andrew's monthly base expenses will help stabilize the seasonal ups and downs of our givings. We encourage you to continue your faithful giving to St. Andrew's and ask that you consider signing up for our PAR Program.

Property Committee

The Committee is still waiting for City Hall to approve replacing the Fire Panel application.

In-Person/In-Church Worship Reminder

The Session wants to assure you that your safety and health remain its primary concern. While there is no mandate for wearing masks, the Session recommends wearing them if you need to – or when you are singing. We continue to ask those attending In-Person/In-Church worship to do what "feels right for you" regarding your safety and health. Please respect and acknowledge that not everyone has the same comfort threshold regarding public gatherings. Again, the Session reminds you not to attend in-person worship if you are not feeling well.

Pastoral Care

If you have any Pastoral Care needs or concerns, please contact either Rev. Ross at 647-524-1870; the Clerk of Session, Jean Bradshaw, by email at clerk@standrewsbrampton.ca – or at 905-455-6573; the Congregational Care Team – Felicity Alexander at 905-791-0490.