

## **St. Andrew's Session** **Session Summary from January 9, 2023**

WE ARE WORKING TO SERVE YOU!

### **SESSION NEWS** **NEW ELDER ELECTION UPDATE**

The response to the election was excellent; we received seventy-three ballots with a good mix of 84 members who were nominated. With seven vacancies on the Session, the Session has given Rev. Ross a list of twenty-one names, and he will reach out to you over the next three weeks. We look forward to welcoming you to the Session in February, so please say "YES!" when he calls on you.

#### **Termed-Out Elders**

With the election now complete, the January meeting was the last meeting for several Elders who will be leaving the Session after completing their six-year term. **Thank you** to our four elders whose terms of service have ended: Kim Shepherd, who served as Clerk of Session; Richard McMechan served as Chair on the Property Committee; Eunice Boyd chaired the Mission Committee and was Presbytery Rep; and Emmanuel Emanuel represented the S-EAOM members. St. Andrew's is better for your service, and we will miss you!

#### **Passing of Our Oldest Member**

The Session also shared the sad news of the death St. Andrew's oldest – and much beloved – member, George Burrows, who was 104 years old. His funeral will be at St. Andrew's on Monday, January 16 at 1:30 p.m.

#### **Baptisms**

Session also approved the baptism of James Whittsitt DeSouza, infant son of Martin Victor DeSouza and Maegan Leighan Reid. The next Baptism date is Sunday, February 12, 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. 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. Several St. Andrew's Committees are also looking for people to help them carry out the many programs that we have at St. Andrew's. If you are interested in helping with any of these, contact the Clerk of Session, Jean Bradshaw, at [clerk@standrewsbrampton.ca](mailto:clerk@standrewsbrampton.ca).

### **Christmas and New Year's Day Services.**

The Session reviewed the Advent and Christmas services and want to thank all the St. Andrew's members who attended our Christmas Eve, Day, and New Year's Day services! The blizzard threatened our services, but by 2:00 p.m., we knew we did not have to cancel them. The 7:30 p.m. service had eighty people in attendance, and there were twenty-five people at 10:00 p.m. The S-EAOM held its service at 11:00 p.m. On Christmas Day, just over thirty people came to the 10:30 a.m. service, while the S-EAOM had their service at 3:00 p.m. We also had a faithful crowd attend the service on New Year's Day – which was also a Sunday! We also thank all of you who are attending online! We are glad that you are able to "be with us" from wherever you are!

#### **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.**

### **COMMITTEE REPORTS**

#### **Christian Education**

This Committee is working on growing the Sunday School for which we need teachers. The Pre-Lent Event will take place on February 22<sup>nd</sup>, and planning has started on the Tuesday morning Bible Study for Lent.

#### **Mission Committee**

This Committee is already busy planning events for this year.

#### **Stewardship Committee**

The Financial Report shows that due to a decrease in our rental and other sources of income in 2022, we ended the year in a deficit. We encourage you to continue your faithful giving to St. Andrew's, and ask that you consider signing up for our PAR (Pre-Authorized Remittance) Program. As it stands, we will be operating at a deficit by the end of January.

#### **Food Bank**

The Food Bank is seeing a steady increase in its clients as the high cost of living impacts many people.

#### **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](mailto:clerk@standrewsbrampton.ca) – or at 905-455-6573; the Congregational Care Team – Felicity Alexander at 905-791-0490.