

“What’s In Session” September 2022 Report

The summer has been a busy one for your Session. In August we had a two day Session Retreat. This extended amount of time allowed for business, but also for conversation that was less work related and more about fellowship time with one another. During our retreat we discussed our “Vision Planning” for St. Andrews-Covenant. We talked about our Mission: “Inspiring one another to love Jesus by staying faithfully present in our community” and our Values: “Adore God, Always Pray, Act on Faith, Acknowledge Everyone, and Accompany One Another”. We also discussed our timeline for helping the Session to consistently focus on our Vision and how we can lead our congregation to being a committed and healthy family of believers, raising up disciples that serve and impact our community and beyond.

In the coming weeks, the Session will be meeting with our staff, our deacons and our congregation. We are hoping to present a Core Unity Statement that will bring everyone to the same page. There has been division, misunderstanding, and mistrust. We (as members, leaders, and staff of SACPC) understand that we have had difficulties within our church, within our leadership, and within our staff. We are forgiven people and we must now come together, act cohesively, and move forward in unison. We must begin preparing for our future!

During our September Session meeting, we met with Emily Swanson from Holy Cow Consulting. She talked with us about trust and how we as a Session can help to bring trust back into our church. We discussed how we need to build from the inside out, starting with the Session understanding the situation, obstacle, or opportunity. We then need to declare our intent with the staff and the congregation and inform everyone of our plans. And then, the Session must follow through with our commitment.

There were several motions during the business portion of the September meeting. First, the Session voted to allow a session member who is absent to have access to audio only if requested. That Session member will not have voting rights during the meeting and will incur an excused absence. If the Session enters into executive session the audio link will cease. The Training and Governance Committee also moved that New Officer Training will be held on November 11 and 12, 2022, and that their Examination by Session will be on December 4, 2022. The motion passed. The Congregational Nominating Committee brought forth a motion to hold a congregational meeting immediately following the 11:00 worship service on November 6, 2022 for the purpose of presenting the slate of deacons and elders, class of 2025, to the congregation. This motion was also approved.

One of the most important things for the Session is to communicate with our members. Currently, we utilize the Saints Alive newsletter as our primary form of communication. We will begin trying other platforms such as social media and print. If there is a method that you suggest (or prefer), please contact us and give us your recommendation. As always, if you have questions or concerns, please send correspondence to session@sacpc.org.

Session Committees

Planning Committee: Jeff Flynn, Beth Cherry

Congregational Engagement Committee: Paige Williams, Rita Pasquariello, Eddie Stuart, Matt Hilliard, Jim Snyder, Tony McEwen

Governance and Training Committee: Brian Lanier, Kathy Denlinger, Lynn Atkinson

Human Resources Committee: David Massey, Russell Herring, Joan Gray

Finance Committee: William Gwathmey, Lisa Bohbrink, Hugh Caison