

## **What's In Session?**

### **April 2024 Report**

Elder Jim Snyder opened the meeting with prayer and a message from 1 Thessalonians.

You might hear about the “ends,” or guiding principles of our church and the Great Ends of the Church, which guide the vision and missions of the Presbyterian Church, (U.S.A.). Elders regularly receive education about our “ends” and how we are fulfilling them. Catheryn Thomas discussed how we are using our church facilities to work toward realizing our vision. Beyond member and staff use, community groups that use SACPC’s facilities include Al Anon, AA, Cub Scouts, Communities in Schools, Lion Heart Basketball, Music on Market, Younglife, Girl Scout Daisy Troop, Men’s Basketball, Laney Football Dinners, Halo Hoops Basketball, Good Shepherd Center, Women’s Leadership, Robotics teams, New Hanover High School, Laney Spring Chorus Concert, Scout Courts of Honor, Scout Pine Box Derby. “The Block,” or property on our campus owned by SACPC, is occupied by the Carousel Center, Bridge Church Offices, Port City Power Yoga, Azalea Dog Training, White Front Diner, Vigilant Hope and Roastery, Neverstop Select Services, the Hub. Sisson House hosts mission groups, and Church World Services temporary housing for international refugees.

Session subcommittees (Strategic Planning, Congregational Engagement, Governance and Training, Human Resources, and Finance) submit their meeting minutes for approval at Session meetings. Membership reports, financial reports, attendance statistics, requests for weddings, baptisms, worship changes, and delegates to Presbytery meetings are all part of these monthly meetings. Called meetings at other times allow the Session to approve and welcome new members, including this year’s Confirmation class.

At each meeting, Elders “rehearse” possible scenarios, giving us a chance to review church policies and the Book of Order as they apply to different situations. We also regularly evaluate sections of our Governance policy, modifying them when Elders believe changes are needed.

Reverend Harrington provides a Head of Staff update to keep Session members informed. Highlights this month included an Associate Pastor Nominating Committee progress report (interviews in process), a May 26 celebration honoring Gail Richardson on her upcoming retirement, Preschool Director Search Team progress report (interviewing candidates), Earth Care Worship Service was well received, last summer intern John Henderson is joining the Peace Corps in Guinea, West Africa and will visit SACPC later this year.