

First Presbyterian Church, Collingwood

Session Update

Session Meeting – Wednesday, January 21, 2026 (Zoom)

Opening & Spirit of the Meeting

Session met from 7:00–9:00 pm by Zoom. Rev. Alton Ruff opened with a devotional reading from **1 Peter 5** and prayer, reminding elders of our shared calling to shepherd God's people with care and faithfulness.

Governance & Administration

- The Co-Treasurers (**Derek Thompson and Jack Vanderkooy**) will now regularly join Session meetings when financial matters are discussed and will then be excused.
- Session expressed sincere thanks to **Denman Lawrenson** for his significant help during the recent Treasurer transition.

Financial Highlights

- Financial Statements for **November and December 2025** were approved.
- A new **Benevolent Fund** was created using the **\$7,000 surplus** from the Christmas Hamper Fund. This fund allows the Minister to respond quickly and directly to people in need.
- **Jack (Simon) Vanderkooy** was appointed as an additional **signing authority** for banking and financial matters.

Property & Facilities

- Work continues on gathering quotes and planning for **air conditioning in the Sanctuary**.
- A concern related to **snow storage on the property** was noted and is being monitored by the Property Team.
- Comprehensive standardized forms for new rentals is being developed by the property team.
- A rental request from **Fifth Street Creative Initiatives** to use the Sanctuary for a **matinee concert on Sunday, May 3, 2026** was approved.

Worship, Music & Technology

- Further discernment is needed regarding a potential **grand piano donation**.
- It was noted that the sanctuary is in need of carpet and paint

Strategic Planning

- Elders and ministry staff are reminded of the upcoming **Strategic Planning / Visioning Session**:
 - **Saturday, January 31, 2026**
 - **9:45 am – 12:15 pm**

Membership & Pastoral Life

- The transfer of membership of **Freda Delange** from Islington United Church was approved.
- A Membership Course is set to take place after worship on March 1st with inductions happening on March 22nd – the day of the AGM.
- Session shared pastoral concerns and held these in prayer together.

New Business & Ministry Support

- The **Terms of Reference for the Funeral Luncheon Team** were approved.
- Session accepted the resignation of **Murray Morrison as Trustee**, effective immediately prior to the March 2026 Annual Meeting, and requested that appreciation be shared for his faithful service.
- Permission was granted to form a **Costume Committee** to organize costumes in the Conference Room and Drama Room.
- An update was received on decorating work underway in the **Welcome Centre**, including plans to hang banners back in the side hall.
- Session expressed heartfelt thanks to **Denman Lawrenson** for his many years of dedicated service as Treasurer.

Key Dates & Upcoming Events

- **February 1, 2026** – Communion
- **January 24** – Valentine Craft Day

- **January 29, 11:00 am** – New non-fiction book club (Joan Vanderkooy)
- **February 16** – Family Day Skating
- **February 17** – Women's Gathering
- **February 17** – Pancake Supper
- **February 20** – Georgian Triangle Music Teachers Association Recital (Sanctuary)
- **March 1** – Membership Course
- **March 22nd** – AGM (membership induction)

Next Session Meeting

- **Wednesday, February 18, 2026**