

# First Presbyterian Church, Collingwood

## Session Update

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

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### 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.

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### 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.
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### 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.
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### 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
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## **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**
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## **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 1<sup>st</sup> with inductions happening on March 22<sup>nd</sup> – the day of the AGM.
  - Session shared pastoral concerns and held these in prayer together.
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## **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.
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## **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 22<sup>nd</sup>** – AGM (membership induction)
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### **Next Session Meeting**

- **Wednesday, February 18, 2026**