



Session Chronicles

Volume 2 January 2019

Your Session met on the evening of January 22, 2018. The Minister presented a video entitled “The Last Arrow”, a testimonial by U.S.-based Erwin McManus on how to become the person we all are created by God to be. Discussion followed. Afterwards the following business matters were addressed:

- Session accepted the resignation of Keith Leishman as Elder and Clerk of Session.
- Session decided that there would be no response from St. John’s to the General Assembly (G.A.) request for feedback on the G.A. document “On The Question of Unity and Diversity”, relating to the place of the LGBTQI community in the Presbyterian Church.
- The Peace Arch Chorus have again asked to use St. John’s as the venue for their December 7, 2019 Christmas presentation.
- It’s encouraging to see that the coin jar on the Sunday coffee/snacks table continues to draw donations from those partaking.
- English Language Learning (ELL) started again in January, with 40 students attending the various class levels (including 5 newcomers).
- The search for a replacement for the church Administrative Assistant will be underway shortly.
- Concerns were addressed relating to the use of the Legacy Trust Fund to meet church financial commitments. Of significant concern is the use of Trust funds to meet the shortfall in the yearly Presbyterian Sharing commitment made by the congregation. This has happened for the past six years. It must be realized that, when the congregation approves this commitment, the funds need to come from offerings. The Trust Fund cannot be relied upon to

- make up a year-end shortfall in these designated givings.
- Church roof repairs are under way and will hopefully be completed by the time you read this.
 - A big “shout out” to congregation member **Ted McDowell** for his hard work in repairing the church chairs. Also, many thanks to a member of the early morning group that meets daily at St. John’s who used his welding skills to mend the frames of over 50 of our chairs, free of charge.
 - The Presbytery Strategic Planning Committee, in its report entitled “Inspiring Leadership For Transformation”, has adopted six strategies for church growth in the Presbytery of Westminster, and urges Sessions to study the Presbytery’s strategic plan and the strategies, and incorporate the latter into their congregational planning. As a follow-up, there will be a Presbytery Strategic Planning Day at Richmond Presbyterian Church on February 9, 2019, from 9:00 am to 3 pm.
 - Session members will be holding a day-long retreat on Saturday, February 23, 2019 to prayerfully consider the plan that God has for His ministry here at St. John’s, and to focus on how He wants us to move forward. Stay tuned for feedback on this event in the near future.
 - Date of the congregation’s Annual Meeting is still up in the air. We are running up against dates that conflict with outside users of the church, or where our Treasurer is scheduled to wear his Treasurer hat at other church annual meetings. Stay tuned for updates in the church bulletin.
 - The *Session Chronicles* is available in electronic format if you notify me by email. It is also on the St. John’s web site.

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