

Session Update – October 2025

"Let all things be done decently and in order." – 1 Corinthians 14:40

Your Session met on **October 15, 2025**, to review the life and ministry of our congregation and to look ahead to a full and faith-filled autumn and Advent season at First Presbyterian Church, Collingwood. Here are some highlights from our discussions and decisions.

Finance Team

While expenses have risen slightly compared to last year, our income continues to hold steady. The team anticipates a year-end shortfall of about **\$50,000** and continues to keep a close eye on stewardship and spending.

Finding a **new treasurer** by the end of December remains a top priority. Please pray that the right person will feel called to serve in this important ministry.

"Each of you should use whatever gift you have received to serve others." – 1 Peter 4:10

Property Team

We're pleased to share that **Mark Doble** has been appointed Chair of the Property Team, and **Denman Lawrenson** will serve as Secretary.

The Property and Personnel Committees are assessing our custodial needs and will soon meet with caretaking staff to review responsibilities and ensure fair compensation. We're deeply grateful for the dedication of everyone who helps care for our church home.

Children and Youth Ministry

There's lots of excitement among our young people and families!

- In **January 2026**, we'll be co-hosting an *Interfaith Family Event* with the **South Georgian Bay Jewish Community** — a wonderful opportunity for learning, connection, and friendship.
- Plans are also underway for a *Youth Retreat* at **Camp Cairn**, June 5–7, 2026, for our high school students.

"Train up a child in the way he should go, and when he is old he will not depart from it." – Proverbs 22:6

Personnel Committee

The committee's name has officially been confirmed as the **Personnel Committee**, and its updated Terms of Reference were approved. The Personnel Committee reports to Session and assists with personnel policy and support of our staff.

New Business

- A **Leadership Workshop** took place **Saturday, October 18 (9 a.m.–2 p.m.)** with active elders and ministry staff. Rev. Alton Ruff led us in exploring our Mission and Vision as a congregation. This work will continue in Session and special meetings as we strive to support current ministries and forge new one.
 - **Jonathan Brown** will be leading an *archive clean-up project* in winter 2026.
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Ministerial Priorities

Rev. Alton led a thoughtful conversation about ministry priorities. The group reflected on the key areas of pastoral leadership — preaching, worship planning, pastoral care, crisis visitation, leadership, ministry team support, outreach participation, social media, funerals and more — and how we can best support the mission of the church together. It was noted that the minister is often working 6 days a week between Victoria Harbour and Collingwood, and travelling to Collingwood often beyond scheduled Sundays, Tuesdays, and Wednesdays for funerals, weddings, and special activities. If you need pastoral care, please stop into the office Tuesdays and Wednesdays between 10:15 am and 5 pm or call Rev. Alton at 705 715 1333 any time. He would be delighted to speak to you.

“Now you are the body of Christ, and each one of you is a part of it.” – 1 Corinthians 12:27

Next Communion Sunday: *November 23, 2025*

Mark Your Calendar:

- **Nov 7** – Friday Night Live
 - **Nov 8** – Chili Cookoff
 - **Nov 15** – Santa Claus Parade
 - **Dec 13–15** – *The Christmas Story*
 - **Dec 21** – Christmas Pageant
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"Give thanks to the Lord, for He is good; His love endures forever." – 1 Chronicles 16:34

As we move through this season of gratitude and preparation, may we continue to seek God's wisdom in every decision, and give thanks for the many ways Christ is at work among us.