

# FIRST PRESS – SESSION UPDATE

## *Your Monthly Update from Session*

Meeting Summary – November 19, 2025

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## From the Moderator's Desk

Session met on November 19 in the Conference Room for an evening of prayer, discernment, and planning. After opening with Psalm 1, the agenda and previous minutes were approved, and we moved through a full slate of ministry updates and decisions shaping our life together. We concluded with prayer for the congregation.

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## Ministry & Administrative Highlights

All ministry reports for October were received and approved, including Finance, Property, Pastoral Care, Membership, Community Connections, and Children & Youth. Session is appreciative of all our leaders and volunteers that help us to Look Up, Lean In, and Reach Out.

Some items were noted for deeper discussion under New Business, including interim accounting needs, building updates, and new outreach opportunities.

We were approved for a program called New Beginnings through the Presbyterian Church in Canada. This program helps us set a direction for ministry and growth. Expect to hear more very soon.

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## DECISIONS & ACTIONS

### Financial Matters

**October Financial Statements:** We are trending in the right direction due to the generosity of our faithful congregation. We project a shortfall by year end as was indicated during our budget presentation at the AGM this spring.

**Endowment Fund Update:** Following the November congregational meeting the current Endowment Fund Trust will be dissolved effective **December 31, 2025**, with all assets transferred into a new **Restricted Fund** to better support future ministry.

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## Youth Ministry

### High School Retreat

Exciting news! Presbytery has approved **90% funding** for the first stage of the retreat budget.

- Total budget: **\$18,000**
- Presbytery contribution: **\$16,200**
- First Pres interim contribution: **\$1,800**
- Estimated cost per camper: **\$130**

This support ensures our youth can enjoy a meaningful and affordable retreat experience in June 2026.

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## Building & Property Updates

### Sanctuary Air-Conditioning

Session approved exploring the installation of air-conditioning in the Sanctuary in Partnership with the Music Festival. This would increase our opportunities for continued rentals in the summer and benefit our congregation who struggle in extreme heat. Many factors need to be considered before implementation. We will keep you updated.

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## Community Engagement

### Mobile Soup Kitchen

Session approved investigating the use of the Kitchen and Lower Hall for a **weekly breakfast program** hosted by the Mobile Soup Kitchen. Ron Monette will lead follow-up conversations.

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## Facility Use

The **General & Marine Hospital** will rent the Conference Room on **December 3–5, 2025**.

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## Staffing Updates

### **Interim Accountant:**

Cindy Lawrenson will serve as Interim Accountant through **March 31, 2026**, with the option to extend monthly if needed in order to support the treasurer.

### **Interim Co-Treasurers:**

Derek Thompson and Jack Vanderkooy will serve from **January 1 to June 30, 2026**, or until a permanent Treasurer begins. Session and Finance would welcome volunteers for a permanent Treasurer in 2026

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## STRATEGIC PLANNING

**Session and staff** will gather on **January 31, 2026**, from **8:30 a.m. to 1:00 p.m.** to continue shaping First Pres's Values, Mission, and Vision.

A productive discussion also took place around adopting a more collaborative, circular organizational structure for our teams.

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## COMING UP AT FIRST PRESBYTERIAN

- **Communion Sunday:** November 23, 2025
- **Advent Memorial Service:** December 2 at 2 p.m. (Lower Hall)
- **Christmas Story:** December 13–15
- **Christmas Pageant:** December 21
- **Christmas Eve Family Friendly Service:** 5 pm
- **Christmas Eve Candlelight Service:** 7pm

**Next Session Meeting:** January 21, 2026