

June 2026 Session Summary

Dear Ministry Leaders and Staff,

Session met on June 17 for our final scheduled meeting before the summer months. As we continue our New Beginnings journey, much of our conversation centered on thoughtful stewardship, careful planning, and preparing for the season ahead. We remain grateful for the many ways God is at work through the ministries of First Presbyterian Church and for the dedication of our staff, volunteers, and ministry leaders.

Celebrating Ministry

Before highlighting the business of Session, it is worth pausing to celebrate what God has been doing among us.

Our recent youth retreat, *Behold! Something New*, was a tremendous success. We are grateful to Julia Sheffield, Heather, Nikki, Melissa, the counsellors, and the many volunteers who helped create a meaningful weekend for our youth. The enthusiasm of the campers, the commitment of the leadership team, and the powerful conversations that took place throughout the weekend remind us that God continues to work in the lives of young people.

As we look ahead, preparations are also well underway for Vacation Bible Camp. Please continue to pray for our leaders, volunteers, and the many children and families who will participate this summer.

A Season of Discernment

The meeting opened with a reflection on what it means to enter a season of discernment. As our congregation continues through the New Beginnings process, Session was reminded that wise decisions are often made not by rushing ahead, but by listening carefully for God's direction.

As summer approaches, we are being invited to slow down, listen well, and prepare our hearts for the next phase of discernment that will begin in the fall. This is not a season of inactivity. Rather, it is a season of prayerful attentiveness as we seek God's direction together.

Finance

Session approved the May financial statements and received an update from our Finance Team. Our financial position is tracking as expected.

Session also approved a change to our banking signing authorities. We would like to thank Denman Lawrenson for his years of faithful service in this role. Leonard Logozar has now joined the list of authorized signers alongside Derek Thompson, Jack Vanderkooy, and Jonathan Brown.

Property and Facilities

Several encouraging updates were shared regarding our buildings and grounds:

- * The new sanctuary air conditioning system is performing very well.
- * Improvements have been made to the Beech Street property, including relocating the shed and creating additional usable parking space.
- * Repairs are being arranged for several sanctuary window frames.
- * Masonry work on the bell tower will begin shortly.

Session also discussed future flooring improvements throughout the church, including the Sanctuary, Welcome Centre, and hallways. The Property Team will continue refining plans and cost estimates before bringing a recommendation back to Session.

In addition, Session asked the Property Team to review our custodial needs and report back with recommendations and updated budget projections as we continue to navigate staffing transitions.

Personnel

Session reaffirmed its commitment to ensuring that staff members receive the support, resources, and training they need to be successful in their roles.

As our congregation continues to adapt to new systems, technologies, and ministry opportunities, Session remains committed to investing in our staff and creating an environment where they can thrive in their work and service. We are grateful for the dedication, flexibility, and professionalism our staff demonstrate each day as they support the mission and ministry of First Presbyterian Church.

Session Leadership

Session formally received the resignation of Denman Lawrenson as Co-Clerk of Session.

Denman has faithfully served our congregation in numerous leadership roles over many years, and Session expressed its gratitude and thanksgiving for his service. We thank Denman for his dedication, wisdom, and commitment to the life and ministry of First Presbyterian Church.

While Denman is stepping away from the role of Co-Clerk, we are pleased that he will continue to serve as an elder and remain an important voice within the life of our congregation.

Looking Ahead

As a reminder, Session does not normally meet during July and August. Our next scheduled meeting will be September 16.

Important summer dates include:

- * June 28 – Church Picnic
- * July 20–24 – Vacation Bible Camp
- * August 2 – Communion Sunday

Please continue to pray for our congregation throughout the summer months. Pray for those who will be travelling, those who will be serving, those who are facing health challenges, and those who may be seeking a deeper connection with God during this season.

Thank you for all that you do. Ministry continues to flourish because of your faithfulness, creativity, generosity, and willingness to serve. Whether you teach, sing, visit, organize, welcome, cook, pray, lead, repair, clean, encourage, or simply show up when needed, your contribution matters.

May God grant each of us a summer marked by rest, renewal, and a growing awareness of His presence as we continue to look up, lean in, and reach out together.

Grace and peace,

Rev. Alton J. Ruff
On behalf of Session