

RICHMOND PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

Session Notes – June 28 , 2022

Our first meeting under Interim Moderator the Rev. Dr. Richard Topping. Richard has been Minister in Association since Frances Savill's time, so he and RPC are well-acquainted and on very good terms. He attended our last 2 meetings as a guest. So the transition from Victor was seamless. Thank you, Richard.



The slow and careful journey out of pandemic restrictions has meant that many in the congregation continue to be involved remotely. You can see on Sunday that our attendance (other than Victor's last Sunday, June 19) is still lower than pre-COVID levels. One thing this means is that there is a smaller pool for volunteers, whom we rely on for many ministries.

Particularly affected are Munch & Mingle and Faith Formation for children and youth. These are core to our life as a congregation. There is a sign-up sheet on the bulletin board for hosting Munch & Mingle, which, happily, is already getting filled in. Formal Sunday School is on summer break now but will resume in September; speak to our Director of Education, Anne-Marie Ellithorpe, or team chair, Heather Campbell, on how you can get involved.

Victor's departure changes our financial picture somewhat. While for now we don't have his stipend to pay, there are new expenses such as freshening up the manse, pulpit supply, and eventually travel/relocation costs at the time of the call. As well, global financial market conditions have led to a significant drop in our investment income. The Finance Committee is crunching the numbers and will be reporting to the congregation.



The Outreach, Care & Fellowship, Use of Facilities, and Property & Maintenance committees together have recommended to Session that RPC formally adopt a policy of banning single-use plastic items. Session agreed to this policy; it reflects our duty as stewards of Creation. Look for further information on how it will be implemented.

Besides moderating (chairing) Session meetings, two other major tasks of an Interim Moderator are ensuring we have someone in the pulpit each Sunday and overseeing the search process. Richard has pulpit supply lined up until November! The Search Committee has been struck (names were in the June 19 Notes & News) and will be meeting soon. Their first task is preparing a congregational profile, and they will start from the one we put together when we called Victor. Richard has begun to discreetly get the word out over the PCC 'grapevine'.



A vacancy is of course a bump in the road of our normal church life. But while we have lost Victor, we don't have to lose momentum. Richard is a highly competent pilot while we wait for our new captain. Our programs and ministries continue; our worship and fellowship continue; God's mission and his guiding, supporting Spirit continue. We'll be ready for whomever God sends us and the new gifts and energy they will bring.

Faithfully,
Graeme Stager,
Session Clerk