

Session Notes – September, 2023

Session met on our regular fourth Tuesday, September 26. Much of the agenda was relatively routine business, so it was one of our shorter meetings. In contrast, September is the time of year for programs and ministries to ramp up after summer, so congregational life is now getting busier.

Most of you know about our Monday night community meal. Perhaps not everyone knows that only about half our meals are picked up; the rest are delivered to people who cannot come to 7111 No 2 Road themselves. These meals are delivered by Hugh Freiberg, every week, in all weathers. He knows where to find these folk, whether it is behind a strip mall, in a tent or camper somewhere, or even sleeping rough. Hugh is a true servant of the Lord; his ministry is gritty but just as essential as handing meals out at our door. Church on Five is now Hugh's employer, and they have asked the other community meal churches (including RPC) for help in covering his salary. Session agreed to do so.

When she was our student intern, Jacqueline Cleland started a Duke of Edinburgh Award program at RPC. The Award encourages young people to stay mentally and physically healthy, connect safely with others, give back to the community, embrace structure and purpose, and readjust to formal education (this from their website, dukeofed.org). Although having graduated from VST and now working at Vancouver Chinese Presbyterian, Jacqueline would like to continue the Award program at RPC a little longer, for continuity with prior years.

In case you missed the Use of Facilities report at the ACM2 last Sunday, RPC is hosting more and more community groups. Providing a welcoming venue at non-commercial rental rates to groups such as Al-Anon, Richmond Mental Health Consumers and Friends Society, and Developmental Disabilities Association is part of how we can be Wide with the World. Our renters are glad to hold their meetings at RPC.

Session was very happy to hear that Presbytery approved our recommendation that Nehemia Neuhisa be accepted as a candidate for ministry in the PCC. They have forwarded this recommendation to the national church offices for final approval. He will be heading to Toronto for interviews with various committees. Please pray for Nehemia as he seeks to follow the Spirit's leading in his life.

Autumn is officially here. Curtis has settled in. Youth and adult bible studies will be commencing in October. Choirs are rehearsing again. Nurture and Fellowship has a number of fall events planned. Praise God for the life and ministry he has entrusted to Richmond Presbyterian!

Graeme Stager, Clerk