

April, 2023 Session Notes

Session met this past Tuesday, April 25, after missing our March meeting. There was not a lot of business then, and we were struggling to find a date that worked. Even this month, with the ACM behind us, Nehemia on board, and a bit of a lull before Curtis arrives, it was a relatively short agenda.

Poieo now has its own registered charity status, so all remaining grant and donation monies held by RPC will be forwarded to them. For those who have supported Poieo, thank you. You may now donate directly to them at poieocentre.com and receive your tax receipt. Prayers for their ministry continue to be tax-free.

Charter member Pat Secret has moved back to the lower mainland from Kelowna, and we were delighted to receive her membership transfer from Mountainview (formerly St David's) Presbyterian.

It was brought home to Session at the ACM that the Benevolent Fund operation should be reviewed. Benevolences have been declining in recent years, to the point that there were none in 2022. In years gone by, much of the fund was regularly distributed in the form of Safeway grocery vouchers handed out at the door of the church and by Christmas hampers prepared for a few needy families. Both of these channels have dried up since, and Fund resources have not been flowing out as we intend.

This is good news if there is indeed less need, perhaps partly due to the community meal programs now in place. But it is unlikely that all the circumstances have gone away which result in some folks occasionally needing some help. We will work with Curtis to figure out how to get benevolences flowing again. Meanwhile, your donations will still be received at Communion services and they will find their way to those in need both here at RPC and in Richmond.

Plans are underway for our 63rd Anniversary weekend, May 27-28. Announcements will be forthcoming.

Thank you for your continued support while our pulpit is vacant, through prayer, volunteering, offerings, and other means. The Church exists whether or not we have a minister, or even whether or not we have a building (remember the reno?). So those of us who belong to the church family continue to pray, help, and give so that God's mission continues.

Graeme Stager, Clerk