

Information on the Election of “New” Elders to the Session of St. James Presbyterian Church, Fall 2011

Current Session: 2010-2012

Name:	Term
* Daphne Dumont	2008-2012
Christy Ashby	2008-2014
* Mary Lynne Bruvels	2008-2014
Simon Lloyd	2010-2016
* Stuart Matheson: Deputy Clerk	2008-2012
Don MacKenzie	2008-2014
* Alie Mills	2010-2016
Jennifer Moss: Clerk	2008-2014
Daphne Scott	2010-2016
* Allan Stewart	2008-2014
* Alan Watts	2008-2012
Geraldine Ysselstien	2010-2016

* Elders stepping down at the end of the Term

We thank those Elders who are stepping down from active Session duty: these servants have served the Church well and deserve our gratitude.

Edict

At its November 2011 meeting the Session of St. James Presbyterian Church passed a motion calling for the election of six(6) “New” Elders for the Term of 2012-2018.

Dates to Remember

The following dates represent the process for the election of “New” Elders as set out by the Book of Forms and by the Session of St. James Presbyterian Church. Due notice of both the Election Period, the Congregational Meeting, and date of Ordination has been given.

Sunday, Nov., 20th, 2011: Election Period begins.

Sunday, Dec., 11th, 2011: Election Period ends

Congregational Meeting to Close Election for “New” Elders.

Sunday, Feb. 26th, 2012: Ordination of “New” Elders.

ELECTION OF NEW ELDERS

The Congregation, in July 2007, agreed unanimously to recommend to Presbytery that St. James Presbyterian Church be allowed to move to the Term Service model for the Kirk Session, as proscribed by the Book of Forms (Section 108-108.2). The Term Service Model calls for an election of a slate of new Elders every 2 years each for a 6 year term. As a result, the size of the Session must be divisible by 3. At St. James Presbyterian Church, the Kirk Session’s number of active “Session” Elders is 12. According to the Model this means that every two years four Elders step down – to be replaced by four newly elected (and ordained if necessary) Elders.

Our first Term Service election took place at a congregational meeting on Sunday, December 16th, 2007 – when a prepared a slate of proposed “Elder-elects” was distributed to the congregation for its consideration and vote. On Sunday, January 6th, 2008, those six new Elders were ordained and welcomed to the Kirk Session. A second election of Elders occurred in December 2009 resulting in four Elders being added to the Session to replace those who had stepped down; they were ordained in January 2010. The time has come for another election – but due to changes made by the Presbyterian Church in Canada, the process by which our “New” Elders will be elected has changed.

At its **November meeting the Session passed a motion to adopt the process as set out in section 132.2.2 of the Book of Forms**, entitled the **Ballot of Members**, that calls upon the Session to;

prepare a ballot that consists of the names of all professing members of the congregation including elders whose term of service is complete and are eligible for re-election.

It was also agreed that the **period for the election of “New” Elders would begin on Sunday, November 20th 2011 and would remain open until Sunday, December 11th, 2011.** It also called for a **congregational meeting to formally close the election be held on Sunday, December 11th, 2011 – to be held immediately following the worship service**, prior to the congregational Christmas luncheon. **The ordination of the new Elders is scheduled for the Sunday of the Annual Meeting, Sunday, February 26th.**

GUIDELINES FOR ELECTING NEW ELDERS

Only Members listed on the Membership List may vote: As set out by section 132.1 of the Book of Forms, *the right of electing elders is vested in the professing members of the congregation.* Therefore, all ballots, in order to be received and valid, must be signed by a member of St. James Presbyterian Church.

The person(s) being voted for MUST be a Member of St. James Presbyterian Church: 132 of the Book of Forms dictates that all those elected must be professing members of the congregation. 132.2.2 makes it clear who is eligible for election: *“all professing members of the congregation including elders whose term of service is complete and are eligible for re-election.”* This means that every member of St. James Presbyterian Church is eligible. However, the Session has decided that, to ensure that Elders be given a ‘sabbatical,’ those Elders just ending their term are not eligible for re-election. (Those ineligible are marked with an asterisk on the Membership list.)

The person(s) being voted for do(es) not have to be aware that you are voting for them: The process calls for “secret” ballots. (132.4 BoF) This allows for the Holy Spirit to have free reign in the selection of our new leaders.

The ballots must be placed in a signed, sealed envelope and delivered to the Church office before or on Sunday, December 11th at 12:00 noon. The ballots can be mailed to the office care of the Nominating Committee or placed in the offering plate during a service. (132.4 BoF) The Election Period will end with a congregational meeting on Sunday, December 11th. (132.3, 132.5 BoF) Ballots will be distributed to those who have not yet voted. At the close of the meeting the ballots will be collected, determined as to whether they are valid, opened, and the names counted by the Nominating Committee. (132.6 BoF)

You are allowed to vote for up to six (6) people: The Session has called for the election of six(6) new Elders to replace those stepping down. It encourages you to prayerfully consider and identify those who you believe possess the spiritual gifts and skills of leadership and, write their name on the ballot. Vote for those you feel are called to lead. You do not have to vote for six(6) people if you do not wish; but you cannot vote more than once, so do not submit your ballot until you have decided on who to vote for.

What happens then?: The Book of Forms offers this outline of the process once the election is over: *“When a ballot of members is used, the session shall determine which candidates to approach about their willingness to serve as an elder based on their suitability for the eldership, the number of votes each one receives and the number of additional elders required. The session will cease approaching candidates once the required number of elders is reached or the list of approved candidates to be approached is exhausted.”* (132.8 BoF). Once the Nominating Committee tallies the election results it will present to the Session the list of ‘elected’ candidates for it to review. The Session will then direct the Minister to approach those ‘elected’ until all six(6) vacant Session spots are filled.

Term Service Fact Sheet

Outline of duties for both “Session” Elders and “Non-Session” Elders,
As established by St. James’ Session in 2007.

What “Session Elders” Must Do: (those currently on Session)

- (i) Attend Session meeting
- (ii) Participate in the governance of the congregation
- (iii) Vote on all motions
- (iv) Be responsible for an Elder District
- (v) Act as Session on committees Representative
- (vi) Participate in the life of the congregation by serving Communion, greeting people at the door, serve as usher, and help with Session functions (Easter Breakfast/Funerals)

What “Non-Session Elders” May Do: (those not on Session)

- (i) They will be invited to participate or “sit with the body” of the Eldership for funerals, baptisms, Session events, etc.
- (ii) Serve on Session Committees.
- (iii) Serve Communion.
- (iv) Greet at the door.
- (v) Serve as usher.
- (vi) Help with Session functions (Easter Breakfast/Funerals, etc).
- (vii) Present children for baptism.
- (viii) Participate in Elder’s fundraising activities.

What “Non-Session Elders” May Not Do:

- (i) Attend Session meeting without being invited.
- (ii) Vote (except at Congregational meetings).
- (iii) Have an Elder District.