

What does this mean for Session?

We have 12 active Ruling Elders each year, plus a Youth Representative. Each Administrative and Seasonal team will have at least 1 Ruling Elder assigned for the year. Four of the Elders assigned to Seasonal teams will also serve as year-long “Marks Elders,” one each for Worship, Nurture, Mission, and Fellowship. Those 4 individuals would help with continuity or things that span seasons, like coordinating pulpit supply, paid nursery workers, or mission funds and disbursement. They will also each serve as a facilitator for one of the Seasonal Teams. Two Elders will serve on the Nominating Committee.

This model replaces the Fellowship, Mission, Nurture, and Worship teams. There will be no monthly meetings of those teams. For certain functions, an ad hoc team might be called together by the Marks Elder for a brief and discreet task, such as allocating mission distributions or Music Endowment funds.

Active Ruling Elders may volunteer in multiple places, but the minimum would be serving on one of the teams above. Stephanie will train Ruling Elders to prepare them to facilitate Seasonal teams. The Ruling Elder on each Administrative and Seasonal team will serve as Session liaison to bring any pertinent information and motions as needed. In this way, the Session can also provide some continuity and coordination as needed, and they can check in and make any recommendations for adjustments as we live into a new structure. This will also allow the Session to have a better view of the overall ministry of the church, and enable them discern God’s will for the church together.

Ultimately, all of the church ministries will still be under the oversight of the Session. Calls for House Churches, Marks Groups, and Ad Hoc projects will still be approved by Session. There will be a Calling Sunday later in the fall, though calls can be issued at any time. Funding for House Churches, Marks Groups, and Ad Hoc projects can be requested in the fall during the budget creation process, and the finance team may deem it advisable to set aside a certain amount available for calls or projects that arise at other times of the year. This should also increase the connection the Session has to all that is going on in the life and ministry of the church and its members.