

NEW BEGINNINGS: FAQs

1. What is NEW BEGINNINGS? *NEW BEGINNINGS is a program that helps congregations find clarity and make informed decisions about their future direction.*
2. Where does this program come from and why is Saint Andrews engaged in this program? *This program comes to us from the Presbyterian Church in Canada who established a partnership in 2018 with The Hope Partnership for Missional Transformation in the United States. The congregation of Saint Andrews has decided to engage in this program as we find ourselves in need of figuring out what to do next to continue to deliver a viable and meaningful ministry in today's ever-changing world.*
3. How will this program help us get a new minister? *The work we are doing in NEW BEGINNINGS will help us determine what kind of competencies we will be looking for in a new minister.*
4. What does it cost Saint Andrews to undertake this program? *From a financial perspective, Saint Andrews was fortunate to secure a grant of 4,500 dollars to help defray the total cost of 5,000 dollars for participation in the program, costs largely associated with the services of an Assessor and a Coach. From a human resource perspective, the costs are the congregation's time, energy, imagination, and attentiveness to the presence of God in their deliberations.*
5. Who is the Assessor affiliated with? Who is the Coach affiliated with? *The Assessor reports through to The Hope Partnership for Missional Transformation and the Coach reports through to Canadian Ministries of the Presbyterian Church in Canada.*
6. What is meant by discernment? *In the context of NEW BEGINNINGS, discernment is a spiritual exercise, through which we choose on a*

deep level from different options the direction that God is leading us. It is a process that is both inspired and guided by the Holy Spirit.

7. **What is the purpose of the interactive congregational workshop?** *The purpose of this workshop is to help us become aware of how the world around us has changed and with it, the place that the institution of the church has held over the past decades and centuries even. The intent is that we will come away with a better appreciation as to why we need to rethink how we carry out our ministry.*

8. **What does the Assessor's Report contain?** *The Assessor's Report contains an analysis of our situation including such things as our strengths (drawing from the results of the Appreciative Inquiry), the age structure and tenure of our members and adherents, the congregational and community use of our church, and our financial health. In addition, it contains a number of proposed scenarios for our future.*

9. **How will this Report be used?** *This Report will be used to inform the discussions that will be held in the small groups. Through a process of discernment, participants will determine, from a series of proposed scenarios, the scenario that best reflects where we feel God is calling us.*

10. **What are the proposed scenarios?** *Proposed scenarios can range from doing nothing/staying the same to redefining our mission to redevelopment to closing.*

11. **Will we be able to modify these scenarios? / Will we be limited to these proposed scenarios?** *Participants are free to modify proposed scenarios or create new scenarios.*

12. **Why is the Assessor's Report only available to those in the small groups?** *The Assessor's Report serves to guide the discussion in the small groups. It contains a significant amount of information which experience has shown is best digested in a small group setting.*

13. What is the role of the Coach? *The Coach's job is to prepare us for the discussions we will have in small groups and to train the facilitators who will be facilitating these discussions.*
14. At what point does the coach see the Assessor's Report? The coach will receive the Report at some point prior to the Transformational Ministry Weekend. The Report will be an important part of the training session and will be the basis for the discussions in the small groups.
15. How does the Coach help us with the implementation? *The Coach will be available to us for telephone consultations as we move forward with the implementation of the plan. His job will be to help us keep on track with our agreed-upon action plan.*
16. Who has the final say as to what scenario we choose for our future? *The congregation. This is a congregational undertaking. The congregation is you and me. This is our church. Our decision. It is up to us to participate fully in this process as we will be assuming the responsibility of the results of the small group process.*

Janet Higgins, Chair
SAPC NEW BEGINNINGS Steering Committee