



# Saint Giles Presbyterian Church

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**The Rev. Dr. Katherine L. Kussmaul**  
**Pastor**

March 26, 2019

Friends,

Spring is finally here! And with it comes a sense of Spring Fever, renewed energy, and fresh enthusiasm. This renewed energy and fresh enthusiasm make it a perfect time to update you on the recent work of Session.

For the last 2 ½ years, Session has been working to clarify our Core Identity and set Strategic Goals that will facilitate growth in our faith community. This work was initiated by our Long Range Planning Ministry Team. Session furthered the work as a body with the leadership of Dr. Kathy Sturgis.

In the past few months, Session has dedicated many hours and prayers to finalizing a Statement of Core Identity and setting Strategic Goals. This work has been both exciting and intense. Looking toward the future of our community and discerning the way forward has stretched and challenged everyone on Session.

We have experienced God's Spirit at work among us. We believe this work reflects God's purpose. We are grateful for the opportunity to serve as leaders at Saint Giles. And we invite you to join us in implementing the plan you entrusted us to make.

## **Our Statement of Core Identity:**

- We... Welcome, Include, & Affirm:* We are an open community of faith that believes in the transformative power of God.
- We... Invite & Grow:* We invite others so we may all grow as a vibrant community of faith.
- We... Engage:* We embrace a vision of discipleship where there's room for everyone to serve, give and grow.

## **Our Strategic Goals:**

- Engagement** To spark engagement by refreshing our methods for inviting participation in church-essential activities while emphasizing individual calling and ensuring a place for all to serve, give and grow.

- please turn -

**Relationships** To proactively cultivate relationships (both within and outside of church family) with emphasis on nurturing our community of faith while actively inviting new disciples to join us.

**Programs & Ministries** To cultivate thriving and purposeful ministries that meet the needs of our church community while serving the larger communities.

Over the coming weeks you will hear “Moments for Vision” that further communicate our Statement of Core Identity. You will also notice images (on our bulletin boards, social media, etc.) that capture the statement in a creative and less-wordy format.

The next steps for Session include examining every ministry and program in light of our strategic priorities. We will notice how our current ministries and programs align with the priorities and begin the process of discerning which to celebrate and retire and which to continue into our future. We are committed to moving forward in ways that reflect the size of our faith community while being good stewards of the time you so generously give in response to God’s grace.

Below, you will find a list of current Session members. Please feel free to reach out to them with any questions you might have.

Spring is a season of rebirth and resurrection – a season of new beginnings, renewed energy and enthusiasm – a fresh opportunity to partner with God in bringing forth God’s kingdom – here on earth and as we believe God envisions it in heaven.

Peace,

### **Current Session Members**

Bobbi Jo Boyd

Lori Coble

Chris Gospodarek

Jennifer Gospodarek

Cindy Hemminger

Bob Lindsay

Chris Maxwell

Marie Minani

Joe Moody

Karen Patterson

Nancy Ross

Steve Allison

Leslie Pressel

Scott Vollmer

Ben Watson