



## Session Highlights

"Church membership is biblical. The reason is the Bible tells us so. The Bible tells us that membership in a local church is biblical, vital, and not optional. For many, many years in evangelicalism we have stressed in our evangelism and outreach getting people saved apart from stressing the importance of them being in a local church. We have stressed evangelizing people apart from discipleship, and I want you to see again, just as we saw when we studied Matthew 28, that Jesus says what He wants us to do is not to go do evangelism abstracted from discipleship, but He wants us to go do what? Make disciples. That's what He wants us to do. You can't do evangelism the way Jesus wants it done unless you're doing discipleship, and you can't do discipleship the way Jesus wants it done without the local church. It's so important for us to understand: The way you are saved is not joining a church. The way you're saved is not being baptized. The way you're saved is by grace alone, through faith alone, in Christ alone. **When you're saved, you're saved into what? Into the church, because when you're united to Jesus, you're united to His body.**"

*Biblical Priorities for the Life of the Church (11)–What's So Important about Church Membership?*

Written by Dr. J. Ligon Duncan, III

Greetings Bethel Church family and friends!

The Session began this month with a "called" Session meeting on May 4, for the purpose of meeting with potential new communing members and to discuss church personnel.

The Session welcomed new members Tom and Laura Eastridge and Emily Donnelly. One of the privileges of our new member process includes hearing everyone's testimony about their Christian experience. This is always a special time in our Session meetings. We will

be meeting additional new member candidates in our upcoming meeting. Also, in the called meeting we approved the hiring of Matt Clay as our Young Adult Ministry Intern, starting June 1, 2025. More information and a formal greeting/introduction to follow.

### Phase 2 Building Update:

Our building design has been approved by York County, however, the civil design is not yet approved. We have an expected civil approval date of May 20, 2025. Once that approval is complete we will be able to get our building permit and commence construction. The septic work is progressing but has slowed due to the rain this week. We are hopeful to have that work done by the end of May. Please continue to pray for our Phase 2 Building Project.

### Fellowship Presbytery Highlights:

Bobby Love and I attended, on behalf of the Bethel Session, the 92<sup>nd</sup> Stated Meeting of Fellowship Presbytery on April 26, 2025, held at Temple PCA. Our Ministerial Intern, Isak Siemans, was examined in Christian Experience and Motives for seeking the Ministry during the meeting. The reaction of the elders in attendance after Isak gave his personal testimony was amazing. One elder said he was "astonished" at hearing how Isak came to know the Lord. Right after hearing the testimony, the elders stood to sing a hymn! A motion carried to approve Isak as an Intern of Fellowship Presbytery, under the jurisdiction of Bethel PCA, and to assign TE Chris Donnelly as his intern mentor.

### Session Highlights:

Our stated meeting will take place this Sunday, after the writing of these highlights, so look for those highlights in the next Session update. As always, please do not hesitate to reach out to your shepherding elder if there are any questions, concerns, and most importantly, any prayer requests.

Peace,  
Neil Allen – Clerk of Session

## this week

## events

## volunteer schedule

### Sunday's sermon

*The Believer's Prayer*  
Ephesians 6:10–20

VBS Craft Day  
5/17 at 9:00 am

MOC Workday  
5/17 at 9:00 am

ILPC Session Meeting  
5/18 at 2:00 pm

BPC Session Meeting  
5/18 at 3:00 pm

Youth Senior Send-off  
5/18 at 6:00 pm

Infant Nursery  
Meredith & Breanna Clinton  
and Brittany Neely

Toddler Nursery  
Ross & Judi Love

Worship Training  
Jenni Quinn & Kathy Donnelly