

First Presbyterian Church of Houston
Session Agenda – March 19, 2019
5:30 PM LC 181

Opening Prayer

Omnibus Resolution

Jim Birchfield

Approve Minutes of February Session Meeting
Approve Membership Reports
Additional Consent Motions

Committee/Task Force Reports

Operations Committee/Finance Report
Board of Trustees Update
Committee Reports

Chris Herbold
Fred Robertson
Committee Chairs

Book Discussion

The Cost of Discipleship Chapters 29-32

George Mallory
Callie Patterson

Discussion Topics

Vision Campaign
Strategic Budget Review

Jim Birchfield
Andrew Stepp

New Business

Deep Dive: Equipping & Sending

George Mallory

Pastor's Report

Personnel Report
Balcony Report

Jim Birchfield

Clerk's Report

Focused Prayer Time: Lent/Repentance
Presbyterian School Board Election
Sexual Abuse & Misconduct Policy
Communion Dates

Cindy Cook

Prayer and Praise

Communion and Doxology

Motion to Adjourn

Jim Birchfield

2018/2019 Session Meetings & Important Dates

March 11, 2019 – AC Meeting
March 19, 2019 – Session Meeting

April 8, 2019 – AC Meeting
April 16, 2019 – Session Meeting

May 5, 2019 – MAG Meeting
May 13, 2019 – AC Meeting
May 21, 2019 – Session Meeting

MINUTES OF THE SESSION
THE FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH OF HOUSTON, TEXAS
February 19, 2019

The February Stated Meeting of the Session began at 5:45pm in LC 181 with a quorum present. Dr. Jim Birchfield called the meeting to order and Tiffany Melchers opened the meeting with prayer.

Attendance: See the attached Session Attendance Record for attendance to date this year.

Omnibus motions:

The following omnibus motions, provided to Session in advance of the meeting, were passed unanimously without discussion:

- Moved that the minutes of the January Stated Meeting of the Session be approved.
- Moved that the January Membership Report be approved.

COMMITTEE/TASK FORCE REPORTS

Operations Committee: Chris Herbold reported that FPC is \$300,000 under budget and expenses are over budget. A letter will be sent to the congregation explaining the financial status of the church.

Committee Reports:

Martha Lawler reported for the Equipping and Sending Ministry. Jan Smith reported for the Worship and Prayer Ministry. Gordon Marcum reported for the Mission Innovation Ministry.

Book Discussion: Callie Paterson led a discussion on Chapters 14-28 from "The Cost of Discipleship".

Discussion Topics:

Vision Campaign: Jim Birchfield referred to the outline in the session packet of the Vision Statement, Campaign Timeline Capital Project Priorities and the Big Rocks Timeline for the Vision Campaign.

Youth Ministry: Jon Crantz reported that they are still searching for a Youth Director. Ministry Architects was invited to do a 3-day visit for assessing the youth ministry with the goal of identifying the ministry's assets and challenges. A summary of the findings was distributed to the session.

NEW BUSINESS

John Going introduced his committee and reported on the activities of the Congregational Life Committee.

Connections:

- Challenges –
 - Ushers
 - First Friends volunteers
 - Elders for joining day
- Holy Spirit at work -
 - New Coordinator
 - Connections Cards

Women's Ministry

- Challenges –
 - Financial
 - Publicity
- Holy Spirit at Work -

Great Attendance
If Gathering
First Moms and WOW

Children and Families

Challenges -
Sunday Morning Volunteer Participation
Reconnecting with families and volunteers
VBS
Holy Spirit at Work -
Dad's dodgeball
Super start

Youth

Challenges -
Youth Director
Holy Spirit at Work -
Galveston Trip
7th Grade Retreat
Ski Trip

Caring

Challenges -
Financial
Education/Communicating on Congregational Care
Holy Spirit at Work -
Care Team Instituted
Functioning

PASTOR'S REPORT

- Jim Birchfield read a thank you letter from Rev. Bill Heston for his going away reception and gifts.
- Matt Lee will be attending the startup of a church planting for Seven Mile Road's second church.
- Jim Birchfield presented some interesting data reflecting a demographic profile of FPC as of 12/18.
- Doug Meikle reported on Main Street Fellowship which is focusing on developing new leaders for the church.
- Personnel Report - Jim Birchfield reported that they are continuing their search for a Youth Leader, a Contemporary Worship Leader, and the APNC is continuing their search for an Associate Pastor for Equipping and Sending. Jim led a directed bold prayer for the personnel search.

CLERK'S REPORT

- Cindy Cook reported on the ECO Gathering which was an up lifting feeling of community. ECO is seven years old with a membership of over 300 churches.
- The Presbytery Meeting was encouraging as they witnessed how God is working in churches and community.
- Martha Lawler reported on the MAG meeting. There will be a meeting with the session May 5 in the Fellowship Hall.
- Andrew Stepp gave an update on Discipleship Priority.

- A motion was made and approved to elect Matt Malinsky as treasurer for the church to begin June 1, 2019.

Prayers were raised for the church, member concerns, ministry partners, the city and neighbors.

Ministry	Event	Date	Time	Location
Worship	New Year's All-City Worship and Prayer Gathering	6-Jan	5:30 PM	Memorial Drive Presbyterian Church
Worship	Eric Metaxas	20-Jan	10:45 AM	FPC Grand Hall

Rev. Jim Birchfield, Moderator

Cindy Cook, Clerk of Session

Consent Motions (\$10,000 or more)

- Request from Amazing Place; \$20,000 for connection project.
- Request from Free Indeed; \$28,521 to help launch a High Five At-Risk Youth Program.
- Request from Generation One; \$27,000 for used passenger van.
- Request from Hospitality Apartments; \$10,000 for water heaters.
- Request from Plant with Purpose; \$25,000 to construct cisterns in Oaxaca & Chiapas, Mexico

Request from Restoration Community Church; \$20,000 for renovations to the property at 6320 New York Street.

Request from The Forge for Families; \$20,000 for refurbishment of gym floor; chairs & ceramic tile.

Reports

Operations

March 18, 2019

Members present: Bob Shimp, Tiffany Melchers, Merry Davis, Sam Murray, David Barnes, and Chris Herbold.

Members absent: Ryan Castleman

Staff and Others present: Andrew Stepp, Steve Burns, Tom McMeans, and Steve King

- I. **Call to Order, Devotional and Prayer** - Chris Herbold called the meeting to order and opened with a prayer.
- II. **Facilities Ministry Report** – Facilities Ministry Team is meeting this week with existing IT company to go over their take on things and their proposed costs to fix what the IT audit showed needing fixed. If their proposal is more expensive than what All Covered provided, the Facilities Ministry Team will give them the All Covered proposal and ask that they re-evaluate. The camera project is 99% complete and should be completed in the next week or so.

Tom McMeans provided an update on various other facilities related matters.

- III. **Permanent Funds Ministry Team** – PFM Team meet on Monday, March 4, 2019. At this meeting approximately \$168,000 of ministry grants, seven of which require Session approval as they are over \$10,000.00 The minutes from the PFM team meeting are attached hereto. The consent motion for Session is on the second page of the minutes.

IV. **Devotional** – Merry Davis gave a devotional and prayed for us.

V. **Finance Report and other Finance and Accounting Matters**

- A. **November Financials** – An overview of the Financial Packet was given by Stephen Burns. Summary financial information is included below (in 000's):

1. **Current Year (CY) Comparison to Budget and Prior Year (PY):**

Current Year Comparison to Budget and Prior Year - Month						
	CY		Budget		PY	PY
	Actual	Budget	Var	Actual	Var	
Income	\$ 434	\$ 550	\$ (116)	\$ 535	\$ (101)	
Expenses	(560)	(615)	55	(480)	(80)	
Surplus/(Deficit)	\$ (126)	\$ (65)	\$ (61)	\$ 55	\$ (181)	

2. **Current Year (CY) Comparison to Budget and Prior Year (PY) for Year-To-Date (June 2018 – November 2018):**

Current Year Comparison to Budget and Prior Year - Year-To-Date						
	CY		Budget		PY	PY
	Actual	Budget	Var	Actual	Var	
Income	\$ 5,368	\$ 5,799	\$ (431)	\$ 5,651	\$ (283)	
Expenses	(5,903)	(5,853)	(50)	(5,819)	(84)	
Surplus/(Deficit)	\$ (535)	\$ (54)	\$ (481)	\$ (168)	\$ (367)	

3. **Liquidity – Cash Balances –**

Liquidity - Cash Balances	
General Fund Balance	\$ 1,931
Designated/Temporarily Restricted Accounts	(1,346)
Unrestricted General Fund Balance	\$ 585
Capital Fund Cash Balance	\$ 258

VI. Other Items - Budget Update – Andrew Stepp provided an update on the departmental budgets. All of the various departments of the Church turned in their proposed budget for the next fiscal year last Wednesday, those will be reviewed by this Committee next month and then taken to Session for review/approval.

The committee closed with a prayer by Sam Murray.

The next Operations Committee Meeting will be held on Wednesday, April 10th at 6:45 a.m.

PFM

Permanent Funds

March 4, 2019

Members: Chris Athon, Jane Champion, Julie Harris, Gracie McClure, and Sam Murray. Members absent: Susan Pokorny-Egolf, James Melchers, Carol Shimp and Gabe Zamora. Staff: Andrew Stepp, Steve Burns (Nancy Purcell/Erin Varnell: administrative support).

Discussion and action taken

I. PFM Team minutes of February 11, 2019 (sent to Operations Committee) approved as written. See c) for motion/approval).

II. The committee discussed and recommends to Operations & Session the following action for Permanent Endowed Funds fiscal year 2019-2020:

- a. a) All existing Endowed Funds (excluding the Carter Fund) be invested in the TPF Balanced Fund,
- b. b) the spend rate for the June 1, 2019 – May 31, 2020 fiscal year will be 4.0%, subject to the availability of the funds, and
- c. c) maintain the current investment strategy of the Mary Carter Fund (allow the investment in US Treasuries and Bonds to mature until the balance of the fund is over the corpus \$778,061.83). Balance of Mary Carter Fund on 12.31.18 (\$743,963.12). When the investments are generating an earning off the corpus, grant requests that fit the parameters established for the Mary Carter Fund will be considered. Motion: Chris Athon and second by Gracie McClure. All in favor.

III. Reviewed the 2018-2019 Commitment/Disbursement Excel sheet for available funds to grant.

IV. Reviewed eleven ministry grants. Grants (approved or denied) see below - Motion: Sam Murray and second by Julie Harris. All in favor.

Amazing Place	Connection project	\$25,000	Grant-\$20,000	Benevolence-Other
Arrow (Freedom Place)	Furnish sensory enabled breakroom	\$13,000	Grant-\$8,000	Benevolence-Other
CanCare	Refining the Train the Trainer curriculum	\$5,000	Grant-\$5,000	Benevolence-Other
Free Indeed	Launch High Five At- Risk Youth Program	\$50,000	Grant-\$28,521	Benevolence-Other
Generation One	Passenger van	\$27,000	Grant-\$27,000	Benevolence-Other
Hospitality Apartments	Water heaters	\$15,000	Grant-\$10,000	Benevolence-Other
Plant with Purpose	Construct 25 cisterns Oaxaca & Chiapas Mexico	\$25,000	Grant-\$25,000	Benevolence-Other
Restoration Community Church	Complete renovation of proper on New York St	\$30,000	Grant-\$20,000	Benevolence-Other
SEARCH	Replenish & replace classroom equip. & supplies	\$5,000	Grant-\$5,000	Benevolence-Other
The Forge for Families	Refurbish gym floor; chairs; ceramic tile	\$20,000	Grant - \$20,000	Benevolence-Other
TRELS Home for Children	Furnish a group home	\$2,000	Denied	

Consent Motions for Session (\$10,000 or more)

Request from Amazing Place; \$20,000 for connection project. Request from Free Indeed; \$28,521 to help launch a High Five At-Risk Youth Program. Request from Generation One; \$27,000 for used passenger van. Request from Hospitality Apartments; \$10,000 for water heaters. Request from Plant with Purpose; \$25,000 to construct cisterns in Oaxaca & Chiapas, Mexico Request from Restoration Community Church; \$20,000 for renovations to the property at 6320 New York

Street. Request from The Forge for Families; \$20,000 for refurbishment of gym floor; chairs & ceramic tile.

Next Meeting, week of April 15 – e-mail Sam Murray, chair

Ministry Investment Team

March 5, 2019

V. Participants

- a. Becca Herbold
- b. Mary Knapp
- c. Mary-Floye Federer
- d. Lea Byrd
- e. Martha Lawler

VI. Opening prayer – Becca Herbold

VII. Director's Report – Mary-Floye Federer SOUTH AFRICAN TRIP: Mary-Floye summarized their recent FPC trip to Pfunanane and

Hillcrest Aids Center. The timing was a true blessing to the ministries visited. Paula Thomson, Woza Moya/Hillcrest AIDS Centre spoke at all the FPC services on Sunday, March 3. Missions also hosted a luncheon after church to hear more about the ministries.

BUDGET:

(A) Mary-Floye discussed the request for Missions' goals for the upcoming year and new opportunities to raise community awareness of our many mission partners. One idea is to host

quarterly social gatherings “Wine and Culture/Missions” (similar to Hymns and Hops) as a way to spend time in community to educate and edify.

(B) The first draft of new budget is due March 13, 2019. She has been asked to provide a flat and aspirational budget for 2019-20 and 2020-21. We discussed the possible areas of cuts and increases. There was significant discussion about Main Street Ministries’ \$304,000 allocation. This is an “in-kind” line item (and internal bookkeeping entry reflecting cost of the building). One of many questions raised, was how the number was established.

There was considerable discussion about the chart/graphics reflecting the monies allocated to our mission partners and missionaries. This was a first draft. Lea will revise and circulate.

One challenge of the budget was funding the \$50,000 gift to Street Grace in 2019. \$25,000 will be Pastor Birchfield’s Ewing Fund and \$25,000 for MIT budgeted support. For the calendar year 2020, we propose \$20,000 from MIT budget support (May allocation) and \$20,000 or \$25,000 (December 2020 allocation). The same proposal would be made in 2021. These numbers are dependent on the available funds budgeted for MIT.

Mary-Floye will follow-up on the \$100,000 gift to the General Missions Designated 550 account that was approved by Session in the fall 2018, as well as the Christmas Eve offering, half of which was to be used to partially fund Street Grace in 2019.

The General Missions Designated 550 account currently has \$28,987.

The next meeting will be Tuesday, April 2, 2019, 11:30-1 pm. IV. Closing Prayer – Mary Knapp

Dates to Remember

American Bible Society’s Faith and the Founding Dinner, River Oaks CC – March 13, 2019
American Bible Society President’s Gathering – Philadelphia, April 4-6, 2019
IJM – Liberate Conference – FPC, April 26, 2019
Houston Welcomes Refugees Training– FPC, April 29, 2019
For the Sake of the City, St. Luke’s Church, Bellaire, Texas, May 2, 2019

AGENDA

FPC Worship, Music and Prayer Committee
March 14, 2019
5:30 P.M. in FPC Living Room

Attending:	Guests:
Brent Dorsey	Cheryl Christie
Jan Smith	Claudia Dyle
Alan Sexton	
Lynne Michels	
Callie Paterson	
Martha Erwin	

- I. Opening Prayer – Brent Dorsey

- II. Devotion – Alan Sexton – devotion provided from Psalm 66:1-6 which focused on worship. Alan spoke of how this passage fits with our Committee.

- III. Introductions – welcome Cheryl Christie and Claudia Dyle – both guests were introduced to the group

- IV. Cheryl Christie provided an update on the 9:40 a.m. service, and additional input on Kimberly Chassey – we need to identify a permanent representative.

Cheryl spoke on the growth in the service from a low end of 50-55 congregants to a level of 100-135 now. Positive feedback has been provided on the addition of the Chamber Choir that provides leadership in hymns and offering of Anthems. Special feedback provided for James Winslow for staying to provide leadership for the last hymn. There will be at least one choir member to help provide hymn leadership going forward.

Kimberley Chassey is leaving Houston with her family, which is a loss for the Church and feedback from the 9:40 service.

A potential representative (Barney and Karen Giesen) have been suggested by Cheryl for the 9:40 service to the Worship, Music and Prayer Committee. The couple has not yet joined the church and committee members will work to suggest their assistance after joining.

Cheryl also spoke of the need for a minimum of 4 ushers for the service.

- V. Fine Arts Policy Report – Claudia Dyle provided initial input on the establishment of a Fine Arts Task Force to develop said policy. Attached are her initial thoughts, with input from Michael Homan. (see attached email and draft policy)
 - a. Establishment of a Fine Arts Task Force
 - i. Claudia Dyle – Chair
 - ii. Brent Dorsey
 - iii. Jan Smith
 - iv. Kent Woodard
 - v. Paul Seifert
 - vi. Martha Erwin
 - vii. Presbyterian School Representative – we agreed to have Marth Erwin provide representation for Presbyterian School for the initial development phase.
 - b. Path Forward
 - c. Expected Results

- VI. Personnel updates (Worship Leader, Sanctuary Singers Lead (Nicole Kenley Miller)) – no update available, Michael Homan on Spring Break

- VII. Worship and Prayer Committee – Next meeting Thursday, April 11, 2019 - Session meets 04/16/19) - Callie Peterson will provide the devotion, if she can't make it, Jan Smith will cover for her.

- VIII. New Business – Devotion for April, any changes in schedules
 Cindy Cook contacted the Chair to discuss a change of schedule for communion. Michael Homan has discussed the issue with Jim Birchfield. The pastors have suggested us tabling the new business until next meeting. (See Attached email)

 Lynne Michels requested prayer for the 11:05 service. Attendance is down, and there are fewer youth and young adults attending.

 September 15 is Presbyterian School Sunday with a “facility walkthrough” for the new facility.

 Jan Smith explained the prayer component of the One Fund Campaign meeting (February 28) at the Buffalo Grille. This effort is to help establish a strong prayer connection for the campaign, led by Dorian Benn, with Jan and Brent offering committee support and participation.

- IX. Closing Prayer – a prayer was offered and the meeting adjourned.

**Fine Arts Policy First Presbyterian Church (DRAFT)
Houston, TX**

Purpose:

The purpose of this policy is to define the responsibilities and process associated with the acquisition and exhibition of fine art for First Presbyterian Church.

Policy:

This policy replaces and subsumes all existing policy. The Worship and Music Ministry Committee (WMMC) has the responsibility for making recommendations to Session through the (lead team) regarding the acquisition, exhibition, disposition and care of all fine art at First Presbyterian. The art must be consistent with the mission statement of FPC. In general, art may include paintings, sculptures, watercolors, prints (signed, numbered productions such as lithographs, etchings, or photographic prints), drawings, ceramics, antique furniture, decorative arts, textiles, carpets, silver, rare manuscripts, historical memorabilia, and other similar objects. The WMMC shall see to the regular assessment and evaluation of the existing artwork of the Church.

Process:

When funds are made available for the purchase of fine art for First Presbyterian Church, or when donors approach the Church and offer a gift of fine art, the Director of the Music and Fine Arts should be notified, who in turn notifies the Director of Stewardship, and the chair of the Music and Fine Arts Ministry Team. Upon notification, the Ministry Team will assign to the Fine Arts Advisory Team (FAAT) the task of review and recommendation.

1. The Purchase of Fine Art

- The Ministry Team may call upon professional expertise, such as a professional curator, to assist in evaluating any art considered for purchase.
- When funds are contributed or made available for the purchase of art, the FAAT will respect and express appreciation for the donor's intent. However, the final decision will be based upon the above stated Church policy with sensitivity to the congregation and the community we serve.
- Donor communication will be handled by the ?? in coordination with the Director of ??
- Once the review has been completed, the FAAT will make its recommendation to the Worship and Music Ministry Committee for approval by Session via the ???.

2. The Donation of Fine Art

- If a donor offers a gift of one or more items of fine art to the Church, the Ministry Team will appoint the FAAT to review and evaluate the art.
- A professional expert, such as a curator, may be called upon to review the item(s) under consideration.
- In making the decision to accept or decline the gift, the FAAT will respect and express appreciation of the donor's intent. However, the final decision will be based upon the above stated Church policy, consistent with the Church's mission, and with sensitivity to the congregation and the community we serve.
- Donor communication will be handled by the ??? in coordination with the ???
- Once the FAAT has made its determination, they will make their recommendation to the WMMC for approval by Session via the ???
- The gift of art must be accepted in accordance with Church Finance Office procedures and IRS guidelines in effect at the time of the gift. The appraisal and valuation of the work of art are the responsibility of the donor.

3. The Exhibition of Fine Art / Art on Loan

- The WMMC will have the responsibility for making recommendations to Session via ??? regarding the display, storage, and preservation of fine art.
- The WMMC will have the responsibility for, and will delegate to FAAT, the task of periodic verification of the Fine Arts inventory.
- The WMMC will have the responsibility for recommending to Session via the ??? seasonal and other special exhibits of fine art. The WMMC will assign to the FAAT the task of developing the exhibitions and exhibition calendar.
- All fine art exhibits will be in keeping with the First Presbyterian Church mission statement with sensitivity to the congregation and the community we serve.

- Anyone loaning artwork must sign a release absolving First Presbyterian Church from any and all claims related to the damage or theft of exhibited pieces.
- An artist statement is encouraged with all work submitted for exhibition. This and other information related to the exhibit will be communicated to church leadership via WMMC and the ??? and to the congregation through the exhibit catalogue or other communication pieces.

4. Selling or disposal of Fine Art owned by First Presbyterian Church

- First Presbyterian Church retains the ability to remove items from the collection through sale or donation of any pieces owned by First Presbyterian.

REMOVED from example

- All exhibitions for which submissions are invited will be juried under the direction of the FAAT. The Ministry Team may also call upon professional expertise, such as a professional curator, to assist in jurying the exhibition.
- FAAT encourages gallery use by both professional and non-professional artists and by members and non-members of First Presbyterian Church. All proposals for exhibition must be submitted to FAAT. FAAT will evaluate suitable materials for exhibition as to consistency with the mission of Second Church and will recommend exhibitions to the WMMC, which will recommend to Session via the Spiritual Life Committee.
- Exhibiting artists are permitted to make available their contact information. Should a sale of artwork result from the exhibit, the artist would be asked to remit a minimum of 15% of the sale price to Second Presbyterian Church to help defray the cost of the exhibition. Any and all business transactions between the artist and purchaser would occur independently of Second Presbyterian Church.

Congregational Life

Date of meeting: 3/18/2018

Present: John Going (Chair), Jenn Rustay (Chair Elect), Mark Potter, Pastor Jon Crantz (Staff)

Absent: Melissa Carbajal

Guests: NA

The meeting began at 7:30am with John Going opening in prayer.

Items discussed:

1. Budget conversation – we discussed an appropriate and helpful process for elders to evaluate each ministry budget area under congregational life.

Each elder will connect with staff to go over budgets. The primary budgets will include: Connections – Mark Potter, C&F - John, Youth – Jenn. The other budgets will be sent out as well.

2. VBS needs – More volunteers, specifically in the areas of group leaders. Elders will have one on one conversations with members to invite them to volunteer with the potential addition of elders going to Sunday school classes to garner support and commitments.

3. Youth needs – Continue to pray for youth director search and our current staff.

Action taken:

- Jon will connect each director with an elder to go over budgets.
- Each elder will have one on one conversations with covenant partners to share about VBS.

Motions for Session consideration:

NA

Mark closed in prayer to end the meeting.

ONC

The Committee has met twice and the nomination process was launched on March 17, 2019 from the pulpit at all four services, announcements at three Sunday school classes and from a table set up in Palm Court and staffed by Committee members. Nominations will close Palm Sunday. Then the hard work begins. The tenor of the committee is decidedly positive.

George B. Mallory Jr.
Committee Chair

Advisory Council

March 11, 2019

The meeting began at 3:00 PM. In attendance: Jim Birchfield, Andrew Stepp, Cindy Cook, Robert Moore, and Claudia Stewart. Absent: Chris Wolfe and Chris Herbold. Opening Prayer + Devotional was led by Cindy Cook.

DISCUSSION TOPICS

Finance/Budget report: A brief budget report was given by Andrew Stepp. Through February, giving is down but is close to budget. This week ministry directors will submit a draft of budget projections for the next two years. These will be finalized for full presentation to the Operations Committee, Advisory Committee and Session in April.

Vision Campaign: Jim Birchfield provided an update on the Generosity Campaign. The campaign lead team is finalizing the campaign budget as well as the strategies for presentation to the congregation. They are planning a full report with deep dive to the Session in April.

PASTOR'S REPORT

Andrew Stepp provided updates on the search efforts of the APNC as well the ongoing searches for a new director of worship for the 1105 service and a new youth director. Continued prayers for these efforts was requested.

Jim Birchfield provided an update on the incredible work of our three major local partners, the Presbyterian School, Main Street Ministries, and Nehemiah Center. He also gave a short report on his recent trip to the Blue Med Conference where he interacted with strategic ministry partners serving the Middle East and North Africa. Three key areas of note are the increasing numbers of Muslims coming to Christianity in the region, the ongoing work to displaced people in Syria, and the use of IT as a discipleship tool in the region.

CLERK'S REPORT: Cindy Cook announced several topics that would be included at the upcoming Session meeting. These include the budget strategic review, a deep dive of the Equipping and Sending Committee, the election of two members to the Presbyterian School board, a review of the church's sexual abuse and misconduct policy, approval of upcoming communion dates, and approval of the finalized MFA agreement. Finally, the focused prayer time at the March Session meeting will be led by Robert Moore and will focus on Lent and the repentant church.

Claudia Stewart closed in prayer and the meeting was adjourned at 4:30 p.m. Respectfully submitted,

Robert Moore
Clerk, Class of 2020