

First Presbyterian Church of Houston
Session Agenda – January 22, 2019
5:30 PM LC 181

Opening Prayer

Omnibus Resolution

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

Jim Birchfield

Request For Endorsement to Pursue Ordination

Jimmy Myers

Andrew Stepp

Committee/Task Force Reports

Operations Committee/Finance Report
Committee Reports

Chris Herbold
Committee Chairs

Discussion Topics

Vision Campaign

Jim Birchfield
Jim Sheppard
Chris Herbold

New Business

Deep Dive: Operations Committee

Chris Herbold

Pastor's Report

Personnel Report

Jim Birchfield

Clerk's Report

Affirmation of Service
MAG Meeting
ECO Commissioners Election
El Calvario Church, Waco
Sr. Pastor Review
2/03 11o5 Pulpit
Sounds of the Soul

Cindy Cook

Prayer and Praise

Communion and Doxology

Motion to Adjourn

Jim Birchfield

2018/2019 Session Meetings & Important Dates

January 6, 2019 – Prayer Night
January 14, 2019 – AC Meeting
January 22, 2019 – Session Meeting
January 27, 2019 – Neighborhood Connect
January 28-31, 2019 – ECO National Gathering
February 11, 2019 – AC Meeting
February 19, 2019 – Session Meeting
March 11, 2019 – AC Meeting
March 19, 2019 – Session Meeting
April 8, 2019 – AC Meeting
April 16, 2019 – Session Meeting

May 13, 2019 – AC Meeting

May 21, 2019 – Session Meeting

**MINUTES OF THE SESSION
THE FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH OF HOUSTON, TEXAS
November 27, 2018**

The November 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 Mark Potter 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 October 16, 2018 Stated Meeting of the Session be approved.
- Moved that the minutes of the October 28, 2018 Annual Congregational Meeting be approved.
- Moved that the October Membership Report be approved.
- Request from Operations Ministry for TPF to:
 - Transfer accumulated past earnings from the Vernon R. Young fund of \$183,000 to FPC.
 - Designation of the funds received to temporary restricted accounts as follows:
\$100,000 - Missions Restricted Account (to supplement the reduction in giving in the 2018-2019 budget) and \$83,000 - Church Planting Fund
 - Delegation to the Permanent Funds Ministry Team the responsibility to oversee the endowed gift and the annual use of the earnings in accordance with their standard operating procedures.

COMMITTEE/TASK FORCE REPORTS

Operations Committee: Bob Shimp reported that income exceeded the budget for October. There will be year- end giving reminders in the Sunday bulletin.

Devotional Time: George Mallory and Callie Paterson led a discussion on the book “The Cost of Discipleship”, Chapters 8-13, followed by table discussion.

New Business

Board of Trustees Report for Presbyterian School: Fred Robertson gave a power point presentation updating the revised use of First Presbyterian Church campus. This will require an amendment to the Facilities Lease Agreement for the use of First Presbyterian Church. The Board will approve the Lease Agreement and the remodel plans.

Generous Giving/One Fund Campaign: Janet Lionberger gave a power point presentation reviewing the vision of First Presbyterian Church to equip members in order to be a sending church and to plant new churches. There also will be changes in the physical environment the campus in connection with the Museum of Fine Arts to create a more welcoming curb appeal. There is a change in attendance, The Big Shift, partly due to the demands on young families. Generis has suggested a two year financial campaign entitled One Fund Initiative for 2019-2021. Members will be asked to commit to two years of operating budget plus capital needs. Jim Sheppard of Generis will be hired to assist with the One Fund Initiative Campaign.

Street Grace: Martha Lawler reported on a program named Street Grace which began in Atlanta, Georgia 10 years ago. The program is now moving to Houston to attack sex trafficking of minors.

There is an interest in joining with Memorial Drive Presbyterian and Grace Presbyterian to stop the demand for sex trafficking. A motion was made and seconded to table the discussion for two weeks and then an electronic vote will be taken as to whether or not to join the program.

Deep Dive: Chris and Rebecca Harrison distributed a brochure describing the Kingdom Story as they are moving forward to plant a church in Houston. They told of how their mission and vision blends with Vision 2020 of First Presbyterian Church and how church planting can revitalize the home church. Matt Lee explained that the salaries for the Harrisons is a loan to be paid back to First Presbyterian Church or paid forward to the next church planting.

PASTOR'S 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.
- Bill Heston will take full retirement at the end of December 2018.
- The Affirmation of Service was explained and will be finalized and voted on at the January session meeting.
- Members of First Presbyterian Church and 7 Mile Road met together to share the pain and loss of First Presbyterian Church members and how to move forward and celebrate their success.
- The choirs are planning a gala, "Sounds for the Soul", January 12, 2019 with silent and live auctions as a fund raiser for their mission trip in June to the Holy Land.

CLERK'S REPORT

- There was good feedback for the Congregational Meeting.
- The next ECO Gathering will be January 28-29 in Colorado Springs, Colorado.

Prayers were raised for the church, member concerns, ministry partners, the city and neighbors. Communion was served by intinction by Rev. Jim Birchfield and elder Martha Lawler.

The meeting was adjourned at 9:35 p.m. with a prayer by Rev. Jim Birchfield and with the singing of the doxology.

Rev. Jim Birchfield, Moderator

Cindy Cook, Clerk of Session

Worship Services Comparison 2016	Week 49	Week 50	Week 51	Week 52	Week 1
	12/4/16	12/11/16	12/18/16	12/25/16	1/1/17
8:15/8:30 Worship	158	131	130	N/A	
9:30 Worship	242	244	271	N/A	
10:45 Worship	312	337	404	276	298
11:05 Worship	255	260	240	N/A	215
Total Worship Att	967	972	1045	276	513

Christmas Day

Worship Services Comparison 2017	Week 49	Week 50	Week 51	Week 52	Week 1
	12/3/17	12/10/17	12/17/17	12/24/17	12/31/17
8:15/8:30 Worship	236	221	272		151
9:30 Worship				312	
10:45 Worship	342	373	294		252
11:05 Worship	207	248	650		170
Total Worship Att	785	842	1216	312	573

Unique Live Streams: 91 Unique Live Streams: 104 Unique Live Streams: 77 Christmas Eve Unique Live Streams: 68

Worship Services Comparison 2018	Week 49	Week 50	Week 51	Week 52	Week 1
	12/2/18	12/9/18	12/16/18	12/23/18	12/30/18
8:15/8:30 Worship	207	180	224	159	110
9:30 Worship	137	147	317	169	93
10:45 Worship	319	367	427	336	209
11:05 Worship	172	198	210	201	113
Total Worship Att	835	892	1178	865	525

Live Stream Data: 126 Plays; Advent Week Three; Christmas Music Sunday; Schedule Change: 8:30 9:40 11:00 11:05

Live Stream Data: 65 Plays; First Advent Sunday

Live Stream Data: 58 Plays; Advent Week Two

Live Stream Data: 52 Plays; Advent Week Four

Unique Live Streams: 111 Plays

December 2018

Baptisms:

Infant 0
 Adult 0

Weddings: 2

Member Memorials: 0

NonMbr Memorials: 1

**FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH, HOUSTON
 REPORT TO THE SESSION
 MEMBERSHIP REPORT, December 2018**

NEW CHURCH MEMBERS

Askenasy, Nubia	T/L: Covenant Presbyterian – Austin, TX
Askenasy, Paul	T/L: Covenant Presbyterian – Austin, TX
Ferguson, Joshua “Josh”	Profession of Faith
Frosberg, Brian	T/L: Kirk of the Hills – Tulsa, OK
Glass, Jeremy	Reaffirm: City Church – Murfreesboro, TN
Kinninger, Joshua	Reaffirm: Epiphany Lutheran – Houston, TX
Kinninger, Lyndsey	Reaffirm: Tallowood Baptist – Houston, TX
Patel, Jaisent	Profession of Faith
Potter, Daniel	Profession of Faith
Reed, Hilary	T/L: Lake Avenue Church – Pasadena, CA
Reed, Matt	T/L: Lake Avenue Church – Pasadena, CA

RESTORED TO ACTIVE ROLL

None

DECEASED

DeVries, Robbie	12/02/2018
Homeyer, Dorothy	12/23/2018
Sexton, Lillian	12/17/2018

DISMISSED

None

REMOVED FROM ACTIVE ROLL

None

MOVED TO INACTIVE MEMBERSHIP ROLL

None

DISMISSED FROM INACTIVE ROLL

None

MEMBERSHIP AS OF October 31, 2018	2949
Gains	11
Losses	<u>- 3</u>
MEMBERSHIP AS OF December 31, 2018	2957

Reports

Congregational Life Ministry

Date of meeting: 1/16/2019

Present: John Going (Chair), Jenn Rustay (Chair Elect), Mark Potter, Melissa Carbajal (Member at Large), Jon Crantz (Pastor)

Absent: NA

Guests: Cheryl Christie, Director of Connections

The meeting began at 7:35am with John Going opening in prayer.

Items discussed:

- Cheryl gave us a brief overview of her role and ministry. Connections Ministry exists to: (three verbs) Connect, Collect, Collaborate. Connect with guests, collect and manage data of people (where they are within FPC and how they're getting involved), and collaborate with staff and others to help guests and members connect in ministry.
- Cheryl has helped the staff use the language of guest rather than visitor. You don't have visitors to your home, per se, you have guests.
- The new connections coordinator, Elizabeth Stinespring, began Jan. 14.
- First friends – A small commitment makes a huge impact.
- Cheryl is a part of the IF: Gathering lead team, working with staff and volunteers.

Handout: See attached

Action taken:

- Let congregation know that the prayer cards are "treasured" by the prayer team and connections team. Great time and thoughtfulness goes into thinking through each prayer card; making sure each person is prayed for and, at times, people are reached out to directly for a pastoral connection.
- Jon will look into ECO polity for joining day with covenant partners. The question has arisen: Do active elders need to interview incoming covenant partners? In other words, can we not use shepherding elders for joining day?

Motions for Session consideration:

N/A

Mark closed in prayer to end the meeting.

Connections Ministry

Connections Ministry for January, February, and March:

1. January
 - a. Jan. 13 - Usher Training
 - b. Jan. 14 - Elizabeth Stinespring joined us as Connections Coordinator
 - c. Month of January - If: Local Preparation – Day and Evening Meetings
 - d. Jan. 24 - Hosting the Assimilation and Outreach Meeting for Churches in the City
 - e. Jan. 27 - Share about First Friends at Neighborhood Connect (Attend at least two groups)

2. February
 - a. Feb. 3 - First Friends' Luncheon
 - b. Feb. 8 & 9 - If: Local – Women's Event
 - c. Feb. 23 - Explore FPC

3. March
 - a. March 3 - Joining Day
 - b. March 17 - Teaching the Boomers' Class

Ongoing:

- Contacting Guests on a Weekly Basis
- Inviting people to Explore FPC (focusing on February's class now)
- Communicating with Ushers and Greeters as Needed
- Reaching Out to New Covenant Partners (ex. Reaching out to the last three classes **to invite women to attend and/or serve at IF: Local.**)
- Meeting with women in the church– pastoral concerns/checking in/thank yous
- Hosting in 9:40 service as needed
- Various Planning Meetings Throughout the Week

What does it look like to be a First Friend?

1. Complete a short First Friend's profile. (Ex. Which service do you attend? Small group and/or Sunday school class? Would you serve by yourself or as a couple?)
2. Be willing to attend a Joining Day in the morning from 9:15 to 10:15 am and/or the Joining Day Luncheon to meet your First Friend.
3. Plan to meet with your new "friend" for coffee, lunch, or dinner at least one time, or meet them at a Bible study or class and visit with them beforehand.
4. Check in with your friend once a month for six months to see how the person is getting plugged into the church. Introduce your friend to people and/ or make suggestions on ways to get involved.
5. Check in with Cheryl Christie before or at the end of the six month period to share how your new friend is doing as a part of the FPC family.

Equipping and Sending Committee, First Presbyterian Church, Houston

Minutes from the meeting January 20, 2019, held in the Pastors' Conference Room, FPC

Attending: Mallory, Lawler, Seifert, Stepp, Federer, Smith, Myers

The meeting was opened in prayer by Chair George Mallory

Ministry Partnerships

- Martha Lawler and Mary Floye Federer reviewed plans for Ministry Investment Team. First of three retreats recently held where a mission statement was developed.
We develop and sustain mature relationships with local and global partners and create opportunities for FPC members to serve, volunteer, and learn from our ministry partnerships.

Two subsequent retreats are planned with the goal of realignment of current missions with FPC vision and priorities – “do more with less”.

Reassess in light of budget realities

- Christmas Eve collections for Street Grace and IJM/Kampala yielded \$17000, considerably less than in recent years
- Advent Market was highly successful; after costs covered, significant monies for participating mission partners
- Lea Byrd is actively engaged in activities with Cullen Middle School
- MFF recently attended a luncheon with other large church mission directors; networking led to potential new modalities for supporting missionaries.
- South Africa mission trip with six individuals participating will be led by MFF and Mary Alford, scheduled early next month
- M3 medical mission conference will be held at Lakewood Church the weekend of Feb 22-23 with FPC participating. MFF targeting covenant partners to spur attendance.
- David Driesbach will be speaking as a guest of FPC at River Oaks Country Club on March 13 at 6 pm. Communication of event to follow
- MFF will lead Holy Land Choir Mission trip in June with Michael Homan as pastoral support

Discipleship (Smith)

- Sunday school, equipping seminars going well
- Small group leaders gathered last Sunday for luncheon and counseling. Good feedback about new format of teaching for 20 Questions series
- D-groups continue to meet. Debriefing planned for late spring

Young Adult Ministry (Myers)

- A series of events planned for the spring including mission trip to Honduras, weekend retreat with Jim Birchfield.
- New concept of organizing returning college students for summer fellowship consisting of eight week Sunday evening seminar and small groups.

Prayer by Jimmy Myers concluded the meeting.

Adjournment at 1252.

Respectively submitted,

George B. Mallory Jr.
Committee Chairman

Equipping & Sending Committee

Charter Statement

The Equipping & Sending Committee of the FPC Session serves to nurture the spiritual growth of covenant partners, preparing us to go into our communities and circles of influence with the transcendent and inclusive love of Christ. To this end, E&S equips us to know God through prayer and studying Scripture and theology and to know ourselves through reflecting on our life stories and discovering our God-given gifts and passions. E&S helps us listen to where God is calling us and spurs us to go there.

Advisory Council Meeting Minutes

December 10, 2018

The meeting began at 3:00 PM.

In attendance: Jim Birchfield, Andrew Stepp, Cindy Cook, Robert Moore, Chris Wolfe, and Chris Herbold. Absent: Claudia Stewart.

Opening Prayer and Devotional were led by Cindy Cook.

DISCUSSION TOPICS

A budget report was given by Chris Herbold. Chris noted both the recent communication efforts made to emphasize the spiritual blessing of giving and the critical, disproportionate nature of December's giving in the annual budget.

PASTORS' REPORT

Andrew Stepp provided updates on the search efforts of the APNC, as well as searches for a new director of worship for the 1105 service and a new youth director.

Jim Birchfield informed the Advisory Council of the challenges facing ECO to source, qualify, train and place pastors with churches in the denomination. After discussion, the Advisory Council affirmed FPC's current policy of strategic retention, training and development of both current and prospective pastors.

CLERK'S REPORT

Cindy Cook announced that she and Andrew Stepp will continue to meet with pastors and chairs over church committees to evaluate how they are functioning, how they might incorporate ideas developed at the Session retreat into their work, and how they might be better equipped for that work.

Andrew Stepp closed in prayer and the meeting was adjourned at approximately 4:00 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,
Chris Wolfe, Clerk, Class of 2021

Advisory Council Meeting Minutes

January 15, 2019

The meeting began at 3:00 PM.

In attendance: Jim Birchfield, Andrew Stepp, Cindy Cook, Robert Moore, Chris Wolfe, Chris Herbold and Claudia Stewart.

Opening Prayer and Devotional were led by Claudia Stewart.

DISCUSSION TOPICS

A detailed financial report was given by Chris Herbold, including a giving and budget report to date plus the background data and analysis supporting a proposed initiative known as "One Fund" intended to strengthen the spiritual discipline of giving at FPC. Chris also identified a suitable prospective successor Treasurer.

PASTORS' REPORT

Andrew Stepp provided updates on the search efforts of the APNC, as well as searches for a new director of worship for the 1105 service and a new youth director.

Jim Birchfield educated the Advisory Council on the stewardship administrative challenges that One Fund is intended to address as well as the spiritual growth opportunity for the congregation that One Fund offers. After discussion, the Advisory Council affirmed the desirability of presenting One Fund to the Session for evaluation and action.

Jim Birchfield presented both (1) an updated 2019 list of proposed personal goals/priorities and (2) a proposed senior pastor schedule of time away in 2019.

Andrew Stepp was excused at 5pm from further participation in the deliberations to permit celebrating his birthday with his family.

CLERK'S REPORT

Cindy Cook delivered a report on the (1) Elder Affirmation of Service, (2) new Committee Report system, (3) plans for a MAG Meeting, (4) denomination commissioner nominations, (5) Elder Elect Training program, (6) suspension of Session's book study for January, and (7) action taken by FPC to support our sister ECO congregation of El Calvario in Waco during their time of great need.

Chris Herbold closed in prayer and the meeting was adjourned at approximately 5:30 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,
Chris Wolfe, Clerk, Class of 2021