Session Report: May 18, 2026

Class of 2026:	*Class of 2027:*	*Class of 2028:*
Kari Keyock (2nd term)	Jennifer Cole (2nd term)	Linda Filipovits (2nd term)
Kim Miner (2nd term)	Phil Fair	Ted Masthay (2nd term)
Jim Halkins	Jeanne Hunsicker	Aileen Williams (1st full term)
Rich Hjorth	Allison Masters	Open: to finish Jon Conrad's 2nd term
JoAnne Turcotte (2nd term)	Donna Taggart (2nd term)	

Session members present: Rev. Karen Kinney, Moderator; Jennifer Cole, Phil Fair, Linda Filipovits, Jim Halkins, Rich Hjorth, Jeanne Hunsicker, Kari Keyock, Allison Masters, Ted Masthay, Kim Miner, Donna Taggart, JoAnne Turcotte, Aileen Williams

Excused: Ted was unavailable for part of the meeting.

Observer for Deacons: Jane Masters

Opening Prayer and Devotion: Our reading was the chapter on Awareness, page 63 in *The Breath of the Soul*. We reflected on the question: "What is my life all about? When we get to the point where the answer to that question is always and everywhere, 'it is about my life in God,' we are already there."

Communion was celebrated on May 3.

No baptisms, deaths, new members, or transfers out were reported in the last month.

Pastor's Report
I continue to work with committees and teams in this time of transition. Looking ahead, I will continue to work with the Mission Study Team as they turn their attention in June to writing the Mission Study, begin work with a new stewardship committee, work with two document teams (financial and administrative) to preserve and store as we transition to a new space, and continue work with other committees.

Mission Study Team: Co-chaired by Kate Arrington and Kim Miner, this team completed 15 visioning sessions over the month of April in addition to one-on-one conversations with those who can't be physically present in the church building. More than 100 folks participated in these sessions. There will be a report on the 18th about the retreat on Sunday, the 17th but there is a lot of energy and enthusiasm around the retreat. The Team will then turn its attention to analyzing the results of the retreat and then begin writing the Mission Study.

New Organizational Chart: With the dissolution of the Board of Trustees, there is a need for a new organizational chart related to Session and committees. There are a number that now report directly to Session, but I suspect a new pastor will begin to reorganize the committees so that folks don't get burnt out and are able to serve where they feel their gifts and talents best match.

Preschool: The Preschool Governance Committee continues to meet monthly to steward the current Preschool operations and finances, while the Next Chapter Team-Preschool continues to look for a new space and handling logistics such as cleaning closets, disposing of unused items, etc. Recent actions by the Steering Committee and PSL will enable the Preschool to start and complete its 2026-27 school year at their present location, but the need to find a new space remains high.

New Sermon Series: In June, we expect to begin a new sermon series on fleshing out the themes of congregational-led mission and ministry uncovered in the visioning sessions and the work of the May 17 retreat. We will go more deeply into what it might mean to live out those themes.

Stewardship: It is that time of year again to pull together a stewardship team that will develop an appropriate theme and pledge Sunday celebration. We are currently looking at Sunday, November 15 to collect pledges, celebrate the 1,510 acts of service, commemorate our years of ministry at 2344 Center Street, but also look ahead as we move into the 152nd year of mission and ministry, and end the day with a 4 p.m. (likely) concert featuring our music partners (Dave MacBeth is the lead for this). It should be a day of wonderful celebration and remembrance.

Finance Committee Report
Jim reviewed the financial reports. A motion to accept the financial reports as presented was seconded. The motion carried.

Continuing Business
Deacon Update
Karen reported that the Deacons met today. Richard Smith provided training in visitation. Home communion kits are being prepared. Cindy Simmons will retire in two weeks. We are grateful for her work with Deacons for the last year.

Steering Committee Update
Donna reported that the Presbyterian Senior Living (PSL) agreement is finalized. An updated Letter of Intent (LOI) is being prepared. Closing is expected on September 1. The Pennrose Letter of Intent is fully executed.

Next Chapter Preschool Team Update
JoAnne reported that teachers will begin packing items as their use is completed for the year. The fall 2026 school year will begin two weeks early since the school year will end early in 2027. Because it's been difficult to find a new space for the Preschool, a separate morning/afternoon session plan is under consideration. That would allow for the use of a smaller space. A fund-raising team is being formed.

Next Chapter Church Team Update
A motion from the Next Chapter Team Organ Preservation Sub-Committee was approved. The motion was a request that Session approve:
1) retaining and storing all components from the St. Paul's organ until such time as a new instrument specification is designed and approved
2) contracting our organ maintenance firm (Brunner and Associates) to remove components of our instrument.

Staff will meet with Christ UCC next week regarding space allocation.

A yard sale preview for church members is planned for Thursday, June 18 from noon to 6:00 p.m. Preschool families may shop the sale from 4:00 – 6:00 p.m. The public sale is Friday, June 19 and Saturday, June 20 from 7 a.m. – 2 p.m.

Mission Study Team Update

Kim reported that ideas from the retreat on May 17 (yesterday) will be ranked in priority for use in developing our Ministry Discernment Profile (MDP). The MDP, when complied, will be presented to Session for approval and then to the Presbytery.

New Business
Kari reported on the May Presbytery Meeting in Waverly, NY. The August Presbytery Meeting will be held here on August 15. Volunteers will be needed as greeters and for help with lunch. Also to be held here at FPC will be the Reading of the Minutes, on August 14.

Next Session Meeting: Monday, June 22, 2026 via Zoom videoconference.
Next Presbytery Meeting: Saturday, August 15, 2026 at First Presbyterian Church- Bethlehem