Session update: February, 2026

Reflection Questions
What about this transfiguration feels hardest to you? What are you most afraid of?
What about this transfiguration might you be excited about? What are you hopeful for?

We discussed our plans for the building and campus, through consideration of the reflection questions. The phrase "lift and shift" was used to describe the emotional and physical changes before us.

Clerk's Report
Communion was celebrated on Feb. 1. There have been no baptisms, new members, transfers, or deaths since our last meeting.

Brenda has given access to Realm for Judy Smullen and Linda Filipovits so that the hundreds of removals approved by Session in November can be recorded.

Pastor's Report
I continue to work on all things transition oriented.

Current transition and other efforts:

1. The first read of the new bylaws and the Town Hall to discuss changes have both gone well. Ted Masthay, Rich Gorton and Joanne Kelhart have done a great job drafting and presenting the new bylaws. We are ready for the March 1 congregational meeting.
2. Brenda Robinson continues to work with GUSTO, our payroll service. to make sure we have all of the items promised to us in the contract – the latest is having our own point of contact so that she doesn't have to wait on the phone.
3. The Annual Meeting went well and I believe it helped to be transparent about the financial needs of our building and the inability of the endowment to continue covering shortfalls in future years.
4. The Mission Study team had its first meeting on Monday, Feb. 16 and is off to a good start. They were enthusiastic about the possible frameworks we can use and the possibility of having part of our work done as a graduate research project. Remember, our charge is to address grief and pain, hopes and vision while also helping folks "memorialize" their time at the church. I have asked the Team to pray about who can be co-chairs of the effort. They are meeting again by Zoom on Wednesday, Feb. 25.
5. Ash Wednesday went well. Throughout Lent we are using A Sanctified Art's Lenten material, with the theme of "Tell Me Something Good." The theme highlights stories of Jesus that help us both see and embody the core tenants of Jesus' ministry. Over the next weeks we will explore Jesus' ministry: radical inclusion; surprising joy and hospitality; his great love for God and neighbor; making the impossible, possible; protection and care for the vulnerable; a ministry rooted in justice, mercy and faithfulness; inspiring us to act; and deep forgiveness. We will remember too that all of these core tenants, all of his mission and ministry was revealed through nonviolent means. How might that help us navigate both our world conditions as well as the transition we are undergoing this year with the sale of the building and property.

Post-vote on the preliminary, non-binding agreements with Pennrose and Presbyterian Senior Living work:

1. While the vote was very positive, with it being 103 yes, 3 no, and 1 abstention, the reality of losing the building and having to relocate for a few years is beginning to hit staff, congregants and neighbors. There is heightened anxiety, worry and fear as we face uncertainty over the next few months. Where will we

land, who will do the packing up, what will our church building look like when it is built back are some of the questions that have emerged. Neighborhood opposition has also begun to emerge.
2. I have begun meeting with staff and other leaders to address questions and any concerns, talking with them about what tasks can be undertaken now to give a sense of movement and control. Hence, Dave Macbeth and his tech guys are inventorying tech equipment. Kevin has begun inventorying rooms. I am also beginning each committee meeting with a debrief of the Feb. 15 meeting.
3. Working with Kim Miner and the steering committee and Session, we have come up with a plan to answer questions on a weekly basis through an email address specifically for that purpose. We hope to have it go live this week as there are some details to work out – what to name it, who ultimately receives it, etc.
4. The Preschool staff has had many concerns (JoAnne will briefly report on this) especially since the director, Lisa Todd, has been out for health reasons. We are working to allay family and staff concerns. The Preschool will have a Next Chapter Team and we are beginning to form it as well.
5. As part of the Mission Study, the fact that it is Lent and to give people space and place to process what they are feeling, we have opened up two rooms – the adult library for contemplative activities and Room 206 for creative activities. I encourage you to check them out.

Finance Committee Report: Karen and Kim reported on the church finances. A motion to approve corrections in the financial section of the Annual Report was seconded, and carried. The totals were all correct initially, but there were slight errors on the report.

Continuing Business: Lindsey discussed the Steering Committee Update with Next Steps.

Preschool Update: JoAnne reported that the Preschool teachers have many questions about how to manage the transition to a temporary space. A meeting is planned for parents, to be held March 10. A half-day session for teachers is also planned, with Don Robertson, Gail Watts, and Lisa Todd.

Deacon Update: Jane Masters reported that deacons have been visiting the homebound and hospitalized, and there is a plan to begin offering home Communion. Cindy Simmons has put together kits for the purpose.

Bylaws Update: Ted reported that there was one change to H5 from the Town Hall, directing the election of elders and deacons in the fall of the years with installation in January.

The Session motion to affirm the new bylaws as amended at the town hall on Sunday, Feb. 22 to be sent to the congregation for a second read and vote on Sunday, March 1 at the called congregational meeting was seconded. The motion carried.

New Business: *Personnel Committee update* - Linda reported that Kevin had been underpaid due to an oversight regarding insurance. He will be reimbursed. Cindy Matthews' Cobra coverage will be discontinued on April 1.

The *Endowment Committee* motion requesting approval of a scholarship award for international student Vidhi Raval from the Louise W Dimmick International Scholarship Fund in the amount of $5,359 for tuition was unanimously approved. Vidhl is studying nursing at Northampton Community College. (The Endowment Committee unanimously approved this on Thursday, Feb. 19.)

Election of Corporate Officers: A motion, seconded, carried: that if the way be clear and the new bylaws are approved by the Congregation on March 1, the Session appoints the following people as corporate officers for 2026: Rich Gorton as President and Sue Nelson as Secretary.

Appointment of Finance Committee
A motion, seconded, carried: that if the way be clear and the new bylaws are approved by the Congregation on March 1, the Session appoints the following people to the finance committee: Jim Halkins as Chair, George Campbell, Phil Clauser, Rich Gorton, Joanne Kelhart, Kim Miner, and Phyllis Walker. Session recognizes with gratitude and thanks the work of Jim Halkins on the Finance Committee.

Lindsey discussed the next steps for the *Steering Committee*: Bringing the Agreement of Sale to Session, the Congregation, and the Presbytery for approval will fulfill the most immediate part of the committee's charge to recommend a community-impacting, financially sustainable redevelopment plan.

The Steering Committee moves to remain intact until the Letter Of Intent with Presbyterian Senior Living is signed and the subsequent Agreement of Sale is complete and approved. The committee further moves that Session approve the formation of a Next Chapter Team to take on additional tasks and leadership related to enacting the recommendations of the Committee. The motion carried.

We are pleased and grateful that Belle Marks, Bud Campbell, Donna Taggart, and Don Robertson will continue on the Steering Committee.

Adjourn in Prayer
A motion was made to adjourn with prayer. The motion was seconded and carried by common consent. The meeting closed with prayer at 7:36 p.m.

The next Session meeting will be held on March 23, 2026 via Zoom videoconference.
The next Presbytery meeting will be held on May 16, 2026 via Zoom videoconference.