Session Report: June 22, 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. Lindsey Altvater Clifton, Rev. Karen Kinney, Moderator, Jennifer Cole, Phil Fair, Linda Filipovits, Jim Halkins, Rich Hjorth, Jeanne Hunsicker, Kari Keyock, Allison Masters, Kim Miner, Donna Taggart, JoAnne Turcotte, Aileen Williams

Excused: Ted Masthay

Observer for Deacons: Jane Masters

Devotion: Session broke into small groups to pray for one another – similar to what we did in worship on June 14.

Clerk's Report
The E-Vote on engaging the new attorney was unanimously approved via email and affirmed in this meeting.

Communion was celebrated on June 7.

No baptisms, transfers out, new members, or deaths have been reported this month.

Meeting with Diane and Larry Elliott, who wish to become members.
Session enjoyed talking with the Elliotts, who have been attending worship for the last eighteen months. They were initially attracted to FPCB by signs along the roadway that showed our belief that following Jesus led us to develop our campus for housing. As today was their fourteenth anniversary, we offered felicitations.

It was moved to accept Diane and Larry Elliott into membership. The motion was seconded and joyously approved. They will be received into membership in a worship service when they are next in town, as they spend summers at the beach.

Pastor's Report
I continue to work with committees and teams in this time of transition. Looking ahead, I will begin work with the Nominating Committee to nominate a Pastor Nominating Committee, with a new stewardship committee, and 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 has now completed the Mission Study which is on the agenda for approval at tonight's meeting. Once it is approved by Session, it will go to the Committee on Church Orders (COCO) for approval at their July 8 meeting. If approved by COCO, the Nominating Committee will convene to discuss and nominate a Pastor Nominating Committee.

Pastor Models: Today, Lindsey, I, Kim Miner, Linda Filipovits and Kate Arrington representing the Mission Study Team and Personnel are meeting to talk about potential pastoral models we can implement in this transitional time. A recommendation will come to Session which may necessitate a special Session meeting so that we can keep the process of calling a new pastor moving forward.

Preschool: The Preschool Governance Committee continues to meet monthly to steward the current Preschool operations and finances, while the Next Chapter Preschool Team continues to look for new space and handling logistics such as cleaning closets, disposing of unused items, etc. Recent actions by the Steering Committee and PSL have enabled 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. David Crook has also worked on three-year projections working towards the goal of having the Preschool be financially sustainable on its own.

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.

Continuing Education/Planning Week: I will be taking the week of June 28th off as a planning week for the remainder of the year using one of my Continuing Ed weeks. In that week, I will outline worship themes/scriptures as well as any projects that need completion before I leave by the end of the year. I will present those at the July Session meeting.

Finance Committee Report
Jim gave the finance report and answered questions. A motion to accept the financial reports as presented was seconded and approved.

Continuing Business
Steering Committee Update
Donna reported that a July 2 meeting is planned with the Bethlehem Planning and Zoning Department, Presbyterian Senior Living, Pennrose, and our representatives (Lindsey, Donna, and Bud Newton).

Mission Study Team Update
Kim reported that she and Kate Arrington met with Pastor Matt Mardis-LeCroy of College Hill Presbyterian Church, Easton, PA, to review the Mountain Laurel Presbytery Committee on Church Orders' (COCO) requirements. In developing our Ministry Discernment Profile (MDP), the team has met weekly since early March, 2026. We thank the team members for their diligent work.

A motion was made and seconded to approve the Mission Study with the addition of the Music Director to the Staffing paragraph on page 8. The motion carried.

COCO will next meet on July 8, and the Mission Study will be considered for approval then.

Next Chapter Preschool Team Update
JoAnne reported that the team meets very frequently and continues to search for a suitable property for the 2027-2028 school year (and forward.)

Next Chapter Team Church Update
Lindsey reported that the team continues to interface with the Christ UCC team to work out details of our shared space plan.

Deacon Update
Jane Masters reported that the Deacons plan to draw up a job description at their next meeting. Although Cindy has now retired, she clarified the work of the Deacons into four areas of duties, making their work more understandable.

August Presbytery Meeting
The meeting will be held at FPCB. A sign-up sheet will be posted for delegates, kitchen, parking, registration desk, and greeters.

New Business
Julie and Scott Biechy, parents of Declan Biechy, 8-year-old former Preschool student, have inquired about baptism. Although the family does not regularly worship at FPCB, we believe that our church is a place of belonging. In the mutual promise to nurture faith, we hope to encourage the parents to bring the baptized child to worship. A motion to approve Declan's baptism was seconded. The motion carried.

Fund Endowment Committee grant requests
Jim presented two motions for grants. The first motion: That David Macbeth, Director of Music, FPCB, be approved for a grant of $5645 (based on the current exchange rate) from the Barry Brandt Memorial Scholarship Fund. If approved, the grant would be paid to fund Dave's Post Graduate Certification in Sacred Music, through St. Andrew's University, Scotland. The timeframe is September 2026 – December 2027.

Dave's proposal to focus on the FPCB narrative as a case study shows his ongoing commitment to FPCB music ministries. The Fund Committee's request to approve an award of $5645 from the Barry Brandt Memorial Scholarship Fund to David MacBeth was approved.

The second motion:
That Vidhi Ravel, a nursing student at Northampton Community College (NCC), be approved for a grant of $2494.56 from the Barry Brandt Memorial Scholarship Fund. NCC Associate Academic Advisor, David Repyneck, wrote a strong recommendation in support of this student. If approved, the grant would be paid to fund her Human Anatomy course, during the summer session: 07/08/2026 – 08/20/2026. If approved, FPCB will pay the institution upon presentation of official documents.

The Fund Committee unanimously approved this request. Session also unanimously approved the request.

Karen presented a motion from Property Committee to approve a contract with Dotta Auction to conduct an online auction of furniture, artwork, and other items in the church inventory. The auction will be held sometime later this summer.

The Property Commmittee motion carried.

Next Session Meeting: Monday, July 27, 2026 via Zoom videoconference
Next Presbytery Meeting: Saturday, August 15, 2026 at First Presbyterian Church - Bethlehem