**2019 Mission Council and Mission Budget Team Members:** Ron Ehresman, David Ivaska, Pastor Younan Shiba, Peter Steffen (Trustee), Richard Taiwo, Dave Tilson (Chair through August), Sharyn Wilson-Woods (Elder), Cam Traut (co-chair), Dick Warnecke (Elder), Susan Wilkins (co-chair), Caryl Weinberg (staff)

**Budget Team**: Renee Cox, Ron Ehresman (co-chair), Bill Floyd, Richard Taiwo, Susan Wilkins (co-chair), Caryl Weinberg (staff)

We thank God for the 20% of pledges that we received to make up our budget last year. Before 2018, Mission received 20% of all giving. Mission funds are dedicated toward our mission and vision: Our vision is to empower and equip every member of FPCE to be Christ’s witnesses locally and globally, engaging with and supporting our mission partners. We do this by:

* Building relationships with our partners
* Focusing on outreach ministries and trips that are relational, cross-cultural, in areas of disparities with vulnerable people groups
* Focusing our funds on those serving in full time ministry, particularly in areas where the gospel is not known or forbidden
* Providing education to the congregation, that is relevant and equipping in nature.

In 2019 we funded 36 mission partners, and supported eight outreach ministries including:

First Friends (Refugee Ministry), International Friends, Mission Prayer, New Life Shelter, Overnight Shelter, Prison Ministries, Souper Saturday, the Warming Center and Build Congo Schools.

**A few of our highlights for the year included:**

* A Year with Bethlehem including a trip of 29 people to the Holy Land, led my member,
“Prof Y.”; A weekend with Sister Church senior pastor, Munther Isaac; a five-month study class on the Holy Land.
* Our increasing relationships with our eight First Friends, Syrian Refugee Families. Besides ongoing visits by our volunteers, we hosted three events for our families and congregation members. The Christmas Eve Offering helped us be able to give “scholarships” to four families at crisis times (auto repair, rent, medical bills)
* We hosted the Overnight Shelter for two weeks each night, including during the Polar Vortex when First Presbyterian Evanston was the only place available for the 50 plus guests to stay.
* We had a large number of partners participate in our Adult Education Classes from Evanston, Chicago, Ghana, D.R. Congo, Palestine, Ukraine and Europe/Middle East. Jamil, long time regional secretary of the Middle East North Africa Region of International Fellowship of Evangelical Students (IFES) and now acting General Secretary of IFES, said *“We hold up First Presbyterian Evanston as our model partner,”* pointing to our relationship, faithfulness in prayer and funding, and because we *“show up”.*

\*\* Since 2016, $30,000 from the total mission budget has been given to mission director salary. This number does not include that portion.