ITEM A.207
INFORMATION

INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY UPDATE

ONGOING WORK:

Database Server Upgrades
The Information Technology (IT) department has migrated approximately 95% of the PC(USA) application databases to the new Cisco database server. There are several databases remaining that are supporting outdated applications. These outmoded applications need to be rewritten before they can be migrated to the new database server. IT is exploring options for these applications and will report the final migration plan.

Office 365 Implementation
The IT department has updated the plan to migrate employees to Office 2016 before the end of Q1 2016. This new version will provide employees with unlimited cloud storage, their own individual video/audio conferencing account, the ability to load the full version of Office on up to 5 PCs or Macs, and robust online document collaboration tools.

Data Migration and Replacements/Upgrades from Windows 2003 servers to the EMC NAS
A majority of PC(USA) user data currently resides on two Windows 2003 servers. Microsoft no longer provides support for the Windows 2003 operating system. The OGA and PILP migrations to the existing EMC Network Attached Storage (NAS) were completed in 2015. The IT department has reduced the number of Windows 2003 servers from approximately 20 servers down to 10. The application and reporting infrastructure migration will be completed in the 2Q of 2016.

Print Server Replacement
All PC(USA) printers are configured on two Windows 2003 print servers and must be migrated to a newer operating system. IT migrated the printers to new servers in Q4 of 2015 and plans to switch users over to the new servers before the end of 2Q 2016.

Anti-Virus/Patch Management Replacement
In late 2015, IT learned that the existing antivirus and patch management vendor will no longer offer antivirus beginning Dec. 31, 2016. IT has been researching potential replacement solutions and will have a new system in place by the end of Q3 2016.

Tape Backup Replacement
The current backup solution using an HP tape drive has become outdated and unreliable. IT is researching other methods of backing up user, application and virtual server (VMWare) data, and believes using a cloud vendor along with a new onsite hardware backup solution would be beneficial and a cost-saving measure. IT would like to have a new backup system in place by the end of Q4 2016.

Decommission of HP-UX Servers
These servers have reached end of life and all applications that reside there need to be moved or replaced so these servers can be shut down. All except one application has been addressed, which is the Ten Year Trends Web Site. This website is in the process of being rewritten and updated. It is estimated these servers will be shut down by the end of Q3 2016.

Ten-Year Trends Website
As mentioned above, in the decommission of the HP-UX server section, this website is in the process of being rewritten. Discussions are being held with Research Services to determine the best way to represent the presbytery and congregation data utilizing charts, graphs and numerical data. It is estimate that this website will be completed by the end of Q3 2016.

New Presbyterian Mission Agency WordPress Website
IT Development has been asked by the Communications Department to assist DBS (contractor) with the new PMA WordPress website. Scripts have been programmed to provide data such as Resources, Verses, Blogs and Mission Co-Workers to populate the new website. Local development environments need to be built and database and framework packages need to be installed and configured. A new server will need to be built, configured, and maintained to house this new website. Website maintenance and upgrades will be ongoing as well as interfaces needed to share data between this website and the PC(USA) CMS website and OGA's website.

2016 Presbyterian Youth Triennium
The Triennium will be using the Event Registration System written by IT Development for the first time. The registration process was previously handled by Purdue's registration system, the venue for the event. Enhancements were made to accommodate a few unique requirements for the event, and additional updates will be made to print the room and group number on the badges. Registration for the event begins on February 1st.

Upgrade Application Framework Software
Several web applications, such as pcusa.org, ukirk.pcusa.org and mce.pcusa.org, utilize the Django framework. There have been significant framework updates to this software that include improved security and functionality. Each application will need to have these upgrades applied and then thorough testing will to take place to ensure these applications operate properly. All upgrades should be completed by the end of Q4 2016.

Automatic Email for Presbyterian Women Donations
Provide a customized automated Thank You Email response for the Presbyterian Women. When a donation is made to a Presbyterian Women fund, an automated email will be generated and sent to the donor from a Presbyterian Women email address and contain a specific thank you response from the Presbyterian Women.