We exist to love God, ourselves and others -- whoever, however, and wherever.
A NOTE FROM REV. PAUL ROCK

I don’t know about you, but I’m ready for 2020. Don’t get me wrong, 2019 was an amazing year - but maybe just a little too amazing. Now that the dust has literally settled, it's astonishing to look back at all we did this past year: we unveiled a new strategic plan, completed work on a 2.8 million dollar upgrade and face-lift, financially launched a new church, effectively navigated (phew!) key staff transitions, re-worked our entire Sunday morning schedule, boosted our traditional service, launched a third Sunday service... plus all the other amazing that happens around here week in and week out! And we somehow did it all despite a $180,000 cut in income due to the depletion of our Angel Gift.

As we ready for the year ahead, wouldn't it be wonderful if we had the resources necessary to reach the potential afforded by our new spaces and services and outreach opportunities? Doing everything in 2019 with a reduced budget was miraculous, but that kind of amazing change is hard to sustain. To realize our dreams of growing in numbers, diversity, faith, connection with our community and nurturing relationships, we’ll all need to joyfully and generously commit our treasure, talent and heart.

Our family and many of our elders and deacons have already increased our commitment for 2020 and I invite you, if possible, to consider doing the same. Here’s to less dust and more fulfilled dreams,

Re
OUR CORE VALUES & VISIONARY GOALS

Our congregation has always been a community of curious, inquisitive learners and action-oriented doers. Our differences are part of what makes us better. We're young and old, single and married, gay and straight. We hold different political views. We're long-time residents and recent transplants. We are new to the faith and long-time disciples of Christ - but together we've agreed on some core values that unify us as we follow the Spirit together.

We value deep and meaningful relationships. We truly care about each other and know our faith is at its best when we love one another.

Openness and Inclusiveness. We welcome and are open to different perspectives, abilities, identities, beliefs and life experiences.

Faith in Action. Compelled by our faith in Christ, we value working with others to build a more just and loving world.

Spiritual Growth. We value learning together and growing in our relationship with Jesus and each other by learning, studying and wrestling with God's revelation in scripture, society and life.

Risk-taking. We value the need to confront uncomfortable realities as we are re-formed by Christ, stepping out and taking risks that allow us to live the gospel in bold, relevant ways.

We're Committed to Advancing 5 Visionary Goals in the Year Ahead

Greater Diversity  Greater Community Engagement  Growth in Numbers  Nurturing Relationships  Spiritual Growth

Groups Involved in Creating our 2020 Vision

- Family Ministries Committee
- Mission Committee & Social Justice and Peacemaking Team
- Worship Committee
- The Common Room Planning Team
- Congregational Life Committee
- Hospitality Team
- Marketing/Communications Team
- Building & Grounds Committee
- Building Implementation Team
- Finance & Stewardship Committee
- Personnel Committee
- Deacons
- Second’s Staff

Our overall goals for 2020 are informed and guided by The Great Report, Second's strategic vision, created and published in coordination with Second's congregation and the Strategic Vision Team.
GREATER DIVERSITY We will intentionally seek to listen to, learn from and work alongside people of different life experiences, races/ethnicities, gifts, and theological and political beliefs. We commit to affirming and supporting people of all gender identities and sexual orientations and mental, physical and behavioral abilities.

GREATER DIVERSITY VISION FOR 2020

• Organize fresh, new youth mission experiences, domestic and abroad, to encourage greater cultural engagement and awareness.

• Promote international partnerships like Guatemala and Presbyterian Education Board (PEB) in Pakistan through bringing in speakers, connecting with local networks and promoting mission trips.

• Partner with local nonprofit organizations including Westside CAN and our sister churches, Covenant Presbyterian and Grandview Park Presbyterian.

• Continue to develop our new worship services and gatherings -- including our intimate 8:45 service, traditional 9:45 service and 10:45 gathering of The Common Room -- to provide options that help people access spirituality and connect with God in community in diverse and personal ways.

Continued...
GREATER DIVERSITY VISION FOR 2020 (continued)

• Continue to collaborate with and learn from The Open Table, which draws a far more diverse crowd of Kansas Citians than a traditional Presbyterian church.
• Provide space and support for TOT’s anti-racism training and initiatives.
• Continue practicing radical hospitality to help all visitors experience a warm, open and inclusive environment at Second, and invite their feedback.
• Ensure a variety of voices speak to our Second community and inform the messages we share with our community.
• Utilize our internal communication channels (newsletter, digital announcements, videos, etc.) to highlight the diverse perspectives and experiences of our Second community.
• Demonstrate our commitment to equitable, asset-based storytelling that empowers all people and reflects our core values as a church community.
• Use hiring processes designed to surface and include diverse candidates.
• Review and update employee pay and benefits to reflect the needs of a diverse workforce and support a living wage.
• Host more interfaith dinners and events.
• Empower staff with time and resources to create partnerships in the community.
• Make certain our staffing model supports and reflects the congregation’s priorities.
• Seek creative staffing solutions (internships, staff sharing, partnerships).
• Seek more intentional diversity in guest speakers and teachers across all ministry areas.

• Support vendors and small businesses owned by people of color.
• Continue to publicize our commitment to being an inclusive and affirming community as part of both More Light Presbyterians and the Covenant Network.
• Share with the larger community the ways we have improved accessibility through our new entrances, lobbies and elevator.
• Increase diversity in decor and art that reflects varying abilities, perspectives, ethnicities and cultures.
GREATER ENGAGEMENT WITH THE LOCAL COMMUNITY

We commit to stepping outside of our church building to engage with our neighbors and the community with greater intention and frequency. We seek to be a church that is known for loving others, living our faith and being part of making Kansas City a more just and loving community.

COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT VISION FOR 2020

• Coordinate and support an ongoing partnership between Second’s Family Ministries program and the Kansas City Interfaith Youth Alliance.

• Organize regular community outings for Second Tweens (3rd-5th graders) including inter-generational opportunities such as this year’s visit to Bishop Spencer Place.

• Continue to grow and support Be the Church Sunday, Second’s day of serving with our neighbors and mission partners throughout Kansas City.

• Schedule donation collections for local mission partners.

• Offer grant awards for local community projects.

• Promote volunteer opportunities to those at Second and in our community.

• Support The Open Table in its community outreach efforts.
COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT VISION FOR 2020 (continued)

• Grow Second's presence on the local and neighborhood level through community partnerships and regular conversations with UMKC students and faculty, local elected officials, the Crestwood Shops owners, Crestwood Homes Association, Crestwood Condos and other neighborhood groups. Encourage these efforts through members, Session, pastors and staff - specifically Alex Treaster in his expanded role with community partnerships, Hali Wimbush as Operations Manager, and Jimmy Itczak with mission, service and youth initiatives.

• Build on the existing community connections of our members to identify areas where Second can support and build connections with the larger community.

• Work with our community partners to tap local communication channels (neighborhood newsletters, online message boards, Facebook groups) to share Second events and opportunities with a larger audience.

• Utilize our new front porch with vibrant banners that include dynamic messages to inform and invite our neighbors to Second.

• Create a new Second website better oriented toward our local community with neighborhood resources and information about the programs and spaces we provide.

• Coordinate Second's Seasonal Leadership Team with community-connected members and staff to share external events and opportunities in line with our mission and seasonal themes.

• Plan for a pulpit and/or music exchange with another congregation.

• Continue to develop Second's new 10:45 gathering, The Common Room, with unchurched community members as a key audience.

• Invite theater groups to use our stage in Calvin Center and host gatherings.

• Dedicate a portion of staff time to encouraging outreach and external relationships; sharing our new spaces with the community.

• Support Session and staff in jettisoning low value activities.

• Work with our Deacons to ensure connection with seldom-seen members.

• Host a class on active listening and promote and host community listening sessions in the Community Room around difficult topics.

• Restore the Block Party following a two-year hiatus.

• Establish a watering hole and bike maintenance stop off of our front porch.
GROWTH IN NUMBERS  We experience personal growth, authentic relationships and transformative community at Second and want others to have the opportunity to experience the Spirit of Christ and the gift of our community too. We must be willing to step out of our doors to meet people where they are, and we commit to actively inviting people to experience the Spirit of Christ in and through Second.

GROWTH IN NUMBERS VISION FOR 2020

• Provide a wide range of Family Ministries programming including accessible, low-threshold events such as lock-ins, retreats, youth fun nights and Parents’ Night Out.

• Continue to make hospitality and engagement with visitors a top priority through excellent visitor follow-up and an updated new membership process.

• Coordinate efforts between Second’s Hospitality, Faith Development and Congregational Life Committees to incorporate hospitality into classes, small groups and church-wide events.

• Design the new Second website we will build with improved navigation, and equip it with more videos and tools for visitors to engage with our Second community.

• Create a website unique to The Common Room that will offer podcast episodes, online resources and information about future gatherings.
• Launch a marketing campaign inviting neighbors and community members to "Come Check Out the New Second" with an emphasis on our new spaces, programs, worship services and gatherings.

• Maintain Second's robust presence on social media and utilize our different channels to promote Second events and opportunities. Empower and encourage Second community members to share this content and invite friends and neighbors.

• Develop communication materials (print, online and in video form) to highlight our new spaces and show community members the possibilities for hosting events that will bring more visitors and community groups to Second.

• Hold 2-3 worship services in the Courtyard or on the new front porch.

• Continue to offer, assess and make adjustments to Second's new Sunday morning schedule to best serve our congregation and larger community.

• Ensure we have staff resources to support outreach to visitors and new member orientation.

• Provide Progressive Evangelism training for members.

• Support Session and staff in analysis of membership trends, and update metrics, terms and tactics for helping people feel engaged in Second.

• Work with pastors and staff in identifying failed initiatives or low value activities and allow for redeploying resources to new initiatives.

• Together with The Open Table, support another other church plant with our residents and connection with New Worshipping Communities.
NURTURING RELATIONSHIPS

We are committed to nurturing real, authentic relationships and transformative community in our congregation. We will create more opportunities for people to get to know one another, share meals, tell stories, pray and worship together. We commit to faithfully accompanying one another through the seasons of life, sharing in one another’s joys and sadness, sorrows and successes.

NURTURING RELATIONSHIPS VISION FOR 2020

- Create spaces for children, youth and families to build relationships and community through Sunday morning education opportunities, lock-ins, retreats, trips, youth fun nights, youth nights and parents’ night out.
- Continue to focus our mission efforts on a handful of local organizations whose work aligns with our mission. Build holistic partnerships with these local mission partners, providing them not only financial support, but also relational care and volunteer hours.
- Include personal touches as part of our hospitality and care for our congregation. Support collaboration between our Deacons, staff and members to ensure all in our community receive the care and support they need.
- Continue to empower ushers and greeters ministry and create a new “Connectors” team.

Second’s vision for nurturing relationships includes offering more opportunities for youth to connect and build community at lock-ins, retreats, trips, youth fun nights, and weekly youth nights on Sunday evenings.
NURTURING RELATIONSHIPS VISION FOR 2020 (continued)

- Highlight opportunities to build connections and community at Second, including intergenerational gatherings, small groups and classes.
- **Support greater communication between Second's and Session**, including a monthly summary of what happened at Session, and a regular "Meet an Elder" feature in our Second Helpings newsletter.
- **Combine our two worship services and The Common Room gathering at least 3-4 times a year.**
- **Work to incorporate art from Second artists and community artists into worship and our worship spaces.**
- **Remove the back three rows of pews in the Sanctuary** and provide for gathering spaces before and after worship.
- **Continue our focus on resourcing children, youth, young adult and adult education activities.**
- **Provide home communion and home visits** through our Deacons.
- **Explore and launch a men's retreat** and a possible continuing small group.
SPIRITUAL GROWTH

We commit to creating opportunities for people to learn, ask questions, express doubts and grow in their faith. Recognizing that faith is a journey, we will create opportunities that support, challenge and encourage people in different seasons and stages of life and faith. We commit to nurturing the faith, questions and gifts of people of all ages, including especially our children and youth.

SPIRITUAL GROWTH VISION FOR 2020

• Continue to grow and develop our new Sunday morning education offerings for children, youth and adults.
• Support our families at Second through offering regular parenting seminars.
• Encourage our congregation to explore and participate in social justice activities in coordination with Mission Committee and in integrated ways through our worship services and gatherings, classes, small groups and community events.
• Host representatives from our mission partners to share their needs and challenges, and to collaborate on organizational solutions.
• Promote our sermon topics, Faith Development programs and Congregational Life events to the larger community.
• Provide resources and relevant content to help Second community members further explore the spiritual topics we are discussing as a community.
SPIRITUAL GROWTH VISION FOR 2020 (continued)

• Continue to provide podcasts and audio recordings of our sermons, adult education classes and gatherings of The Common Room so that content is readily available and accessible for Second community members.

• Assess the value of adding professional singers to our traditional worship service.

• Evaluate our new Sunday schedule with new professional singers and The Common Room gathering.

• Intentionally promote the more intimate and communal expression of worship during the 8:45 a.m. chapel service.

• Monitor, from a personnel perspective, our new Sunday morning format to understand resource requirements.

• Develop aspirational goals to include in personnel performance reviews.

• Provide support to pastors and staff for personal and professional development, including time off for service and spiritual renewal and other support as needed.

• Encourage our Deacons to check in with their flocks about spiritual issues, and invite member feedback on topics for sermons, classes and small groups.

• Offer a recurring "Christianity 101" series.
It's not every year that a congregation completes a 2.8 million dollar restoration and re-orientation to create space for all people. But that's what we've done in 2019. With that challenge and adventure behind us, we now find ourselves facing a year ahead where we have opportunities like never before to reach out to and engage with our neighborhood and expand the ways we embody and express our love for God, ourselves and our neighbors.

In order to make the most of the potential we've created, we're going to need resources to experiment, launch, and sustain ministries, outreach and partnerships.

- If you've not given regularly to Second's mission, we ask that you make 2020 the year you make a commitment.
- If you've given regularly but haven't challenged yourself to dig deeper and invest more, this is the year to step up.
- If you've given as much as you can, thank you.
- If you're blessed to make an additional, generous gift or commitment this year, thank you.

Second is the oldest, continually worshiping church in Kansas City. Today we believe the need for a community that displays greatness through service, admits mistakes, invites respectful dialogue and works for reconciliation and mutual edification is more important than ever.

We know fear grows where love is not boldly lived out. Divisive rhetoric becomes vernacular when grace and hope are unproclaimed. Atrophy and regression become the direction when leaders don't provide clarity and vision. The Jesus we follow at Second, the gospel we proclaim, the religion we practice, the love we share, the community we demonstrate is deeply needed today. God is calling us to be the community of grace, love, justice and reconciliation we hope for in our world. Our church matters. With your help, we'll continue our tradition of taking risks, taking care of each other, and sharing God's transforming love to those who need it - whoever, however, wherever.

**HOW YOU CAN SUPPORT SECOND'S MISSION IN 2020?**

**Commitment Sunday is November 3rd**, but you can make your commitment to 2020 any time through our website (secondpres.org/pledge), Second app or by contacting Johnnie Baker in the church office jbaker@secondpres.org/ 816-363-1300 ext. 223.