

## **Session Meeting of The Downtown Presbyterian Church, October 21, 2018**

**Moderator:** Rev. Mike Wilson

**Present:** Rev. Wilson, Moderator; Elders Cary Gibson, Vickie Coffin, Dave Coleman, Debra Gentry, Michael Korak, Chuck Cardona, Justin Near, Jack Henderson – Clerk; Jeff Koontz – Treasurer

**Clerk:** Elder Henderson

**Excused:** Elder Jim Dickson

1. **Opening prayer** – Offered by Elder Gibson at 12:46pm
2. **Approval of Agenda** – Approved with unanimous voice vote
3. **Approval of minutes from 9/16/18** – Amendment to minutes: Spelling corrections first names for Elders Gibson (Cary) and Coffin (Vickie) and approved with changes by unanimous voice vote.
4. **Moderator's Report** – Will be submitted to Clerk after meeting, was not made for meeting.
5. **Treasurer's Report** - Elder Cardona proposed that church request from the corporation to withdraw \$25,000 from General Fund and \$10,000 from Pickett Fund. Session approved with unanimous voice vote.
6. **Clerk's Report** - Nothing to report. Action on member rolls will be addressed next meeting.
7. **Committee Reports** -- Reports should be limited to items for action only.

Building & History – next meeting Oct. 24. No motions.

Finance & Administration – next meeting Oct. 24. No motions.

Personnel – next meeting Oct. 24. No motions.

Hospitality – next meeting Oct. 24. No motions.

Worship & Art – next meeting Oct. 22. No motions.

Outreach – next meeting Nov. 4. No motions.

Christian Education - Nothing to report. No motions.

Nominating Committee (Jim Dickson, chair). No motions.

### **8. Conversation around identity, mission and long-term goals, including review of New Beginnings material.**

Conversations began focusing on looking forward to 2025 as hypothetical and arbitrary future point. Session discussed predictions and hopes for where and what the church will be in 7 years.

Topics discussed by elders:

- Fears and hopes with regards to membership and attendance growth or lack thereof.
- The larger trend of the decline in attendance in Christendom and our place in that.
- How we craft and shape and clearly communicate our identity.
- Not making decisions out of fear but out of hope.
- Keeping the Gospel central and present and urgent.
- Invest in people. Allowing creativity and failures and passion.
- Knowing that change doesn't mean destroying the past.
- Possibilities for us to be a hub and gathering place.
- Worship can be expanded beyond just Sunday morning.
- The Church is US and not the building.
- Investing in people.
- How do we truly know what the greater church community wants, and not just a vocal few?

9. **Next Meetings** Session: November 18, 2018 – Elder Korak will lead prayer to open meeting.

10. **Closing Prayer** – Offered by Rev. Wilson at 3:14pm.