The Downtown Presbyterian Church

Session Meeting of June 21, 2020

Minutes

A virtual (Zoom) meeting of the Session of The Downtown Presbyterian Church (DPC) was held on Sunday, June 21, 2020.

In Attendance: Mary Turner, Debra Gentry, Dave Coleman, David Maddox, Erin Bell, Jake Byl, Jim Hoobler, Holly Kellar, Treasurer Rachel Hayes, Moderator Rev. Mike Wilson, and Clerk of Session Vickie Coffin

An opening prayer was offered by Mr. Coleman at 3:10 PM.

Approval of Agenda

**Motion** from Mr. Coleman, second from Ms. Coffin to approve the agenda as proposed; the motion carried.

Approval of May 17, 2020, Meeting Minutes

**Motion** from Mr. Coleman, second from Mr. Maddox to approve the minutes from the May meetings of the Session with amendments; the motion carried.

Moderator’s Report – *see posted report*

Rev. Wilson hopes to take some vacation time during the week of August 16.

Treasurer’s Report - *see posted report*

In general, church operations have been near budget. Endowment draws have been made as expected for church operations.

Rachel Hayes, an epidemiologist, addressed questions related to the pandemic. Davidson County is experiencing an increase in new COVID-19 cases. We may see an acceleration over the next 3 weeks.

COVID-19 Planning – resumption of in-person worship

Physical plant changes must be made in the DPC building, especially in rest rooms. More volunteers will be needed every Sunday to proceed safely. It’s difficult to maintain the 6-foot recommended distance between individuals. People simply want to be closer.

How may we respond to noncompliance with safe practices? Age restrictions, somebody may seem sick, will not comply with social distancing, won’t use a face mask. Will a volunteer act as a gatekeeper outside the church doors? Can we expect to ask people to leave? May state the rules on the front of bulletins, and the bulletins may be placed in pews ahead of time. A sign board may be placed in the narthex.

**Action Item**: Mr. Byl will prepare a survey along the lines of what has been sent out by Westminster Presbyterian Church to gauge the interest among church friends and family in resuming in-person worship. What is the hope of the DPC congregation?

**Action Item**: Rev. Wilson to work with Dena Swoner to order the necessary supplies for safely resuming in-person services.

**Action Item**: The Worship Committee will drill down to the details of resuming safe worship in the DPC sanctuary.

**Motion** from Mr. Maddox to continue online worship only until August 9th, second from Ms. Turner; following discussion, the motion carried.

Committee Reports

* Building & History – met online June 15

**Action Item**:  Reverend Wilson is to direct Paulino Jarquin to begin painting the hallway between Fellowship Hall and the chapel.  All pictures, wall hangings, and bulletin boards are to be removed. Walls are to be patched and repainted in the existing color.

Mr. Coleman has found a good videographer to work with Mr. Hoobler on the DPC building story.

Coded lock for parking lot gate – additional conversation: Different opinions, pro and con, on a permanent keypad lock. Decision to leave the padlock as it is, a non-coded padlock.

* Education & Evangelism

Possible online study/conversation around matters of race: A Zoom focus group? Before or after worship? Conversation about the PC(USA) Confession of Belhar? Update the marquis at the front of the building to show support of Black Lives Matter movement? Work on the History Room off the sanctuary in a way that is ethical, true, and fact-based?

**Action Item**:   The marquee at the corner of 5th Ave. and Church St. is to be updated to reflect support for the Black Lives Matter movement.  “8:46 Time for Change” was suggested.

**Action Item**: Mr. Hoobler to organize a group with the responsibility of updating the History Room.

* Finance – met online June 15 – *see posted report*

Review of Mr. Byl’s proposed letter to the congregation. Both eVotion and paper postal mailing were favored options for distribution.

* Saturday Breakfast Coordinators – met online May 20 – *see posted report*
* Worship & Art – met online June 17 – *see posted report*

Tabled, postponed or moribund issues

Rev. Wilson is currently a Designated Pastor of DPC for a term of 4 years, to expire in October 2020. The term is the same as a Called Pastor except for a term expiration date.

At 5:30 PM, the leadership of the Session meeting was assigned to Ms. Gentry, chair of the DPC Personnel Committee. Discussion ensued.

**Motion** from Mr. Maddox to extend Rev. Wilson’s current agreement as Designated Pastor for an additional 6 months, second from Mr. Hoobler; the motion carried.

Rev. Wilson returned as meeting Moderator at 6:00 PM.

Next Meetings

PC(USA) General Assembly: Online June 19, 26, 27

Presbytery: Saturday, July 18 – tentatively scheduled as a Zoom meeting; we need two commissioners. Mr. Maddox volunteered.

**Motion** to accept Mr. Maddox as Presbytery Meeting Commissioner from Ms. Kellar, second from Mr. Coleman. The motion carried.

Session: July 19

The opening prayer for the July meeting of the Session is to be given by Ms. Gentry.

Following a **motion** from Mr. Coleman, the meeting was closed with prayer at 6:07 PM.

Rev. Mike Wilson

Moderator, The Downtown Presbyterian Church Session

Vickie Coffin

Clerk, The Downtown Presbyterian Church Session