

The Downtown Presbyterian Church
Session Meeting of July 19, 2020
Minutes

An online (Zoom) meeting of the Session of The Downtown Presbyterian Church (DPC) was held on Sunday, July 19, 2020.

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

An opening prayer was offered by Rev. Wilson at 3:05 PM.

Approval of Agenda

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

Approval of Minutes from June 21 Regular Session Meeting

Motion from Mr. Byl, second from Ms. Kellar to approve the minutes of the previous meeting with minor corrections; the motion carried.

Moderator's Report - see posted report

The 2020 General Assembly was held online (via Zoom). Some controversial issues couldn't be resolved. There were commissioners who were disapproving of this. More work is needed.

Treasurer's Report

Gifts and donations seem to be trickling in as expected. Operating expenses are close to what was budgeted. Some expenses have gone down while the building is not being used, but the expense reduction doesn't have a significant impact.

Rachel Hayes, an epidemiologist, stated that the coronavirus is spreading in Davidson County. It's not diminishing. A large chunk of the population is not complying with guidelines. It may be a good idea to wait until a vaccine is available to open the sanctuary to in-person worship. Comments: "There's no reason to rush." "Delaying is a responsible and prudent thing to do."

COVID-19 planning

This will draw on the conversation of the Worship & Arts committee from the July 16 meeting (*see committee reports*)

Committee Reports

Personnel – met July 3

Since the church building is empty, should the staff be coming in more often?

Dena Swoner was asked to take more responsibility for the dpchurch.com web site. Dena was agreeable. Also, the church directory should be brought up to date. She will contact individuals who we haven't heard from lately. She will add artists-in-residence and choir/musicians.

Paulino Jarquin has been asked to do some painting projects. Walls, doors, windows need attention. Since the building is empty, he could be spending full time on maintenance projects.

Building & History – next meeting: July 22

Mr. Byl confirms there is a sense of urgency on the expanded internet and first-floor bathroom projects. The Session wants to put weight behind the desire to hire minority-owned businesses to do this work. It will be addressed with Michael Korak.

Education & Evangelism

Possible studies on issues of race. Resources from PC(USA) about the Belhar Confession. A member of Second Presbyterian Church is an expert on the Book of Acts. He may be willing to lead DPC in studies.

Finance – next meeting: July 22

Hospitality –

Denny and Glenda Harris are planning to move to Florida. We may have a Zoom “aloha” party. Possibly a drive-by. Ms. Turner has several ideas about making this a special event.

Outreach – met on June 23

Continuing to make scheduled donations.

Saturday Breakfast Coordinators

Action Item: Ms. Bell will write an update to the Saturday Breakfast section of the dpchurch.com web site. Also, the donation of Bombas socks will be bragged about on the DPC Facebook page.

Clothing Closet

Excess clothing is stored on the church building 4th floor. Ms. Bell has questions about using the building and about the future of the Clothing Closet. The Session expressed support for the Clothing Closet. We must be creative and flexible to make it work with the season changes during the pandemic. A specific date/time may be set up for receiving used clothing.

Worship & Art – met online July 16

Worship attendees will be encouraged to attend the service of First Presbyterian Church of Pikeville, KY (former DPC intern Scot Robinson’s church) on August 16 as Rev. Wilson takes some much deserved vacation time.

Future Facebook live streaming will be possible in the church building when the WiFi is beefed up.

Motion from Ms. Coffin to continue to worship online only through the first Sunday in October, second from Ms. Kellar. The motion carried.

Mr. Byl reminded us of the survey to gauge member interest in resuming in-person worship.

Communications Committee - *see posted report*

Nominating Committee – met Tuesday, June 23; next meeting August 4

Suggestions for ruling elders for the class of 2023 are being solicited.

Congregational Care and Life issues

Scott McGinness needs our support and prayers.

Next Meeting

Session: August 23

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

Following a **motion** from Ms. Coffin, the meeting was closed with prayer at 5:11 PM.

Rev. Mike Wilson

Moderator, The Downtown Presbyterian Church Session



Vickie Coffin

Clerk of The Downtown Presbyterian Church Session