

The Downtown Presbyterian Church
Session Meeting of November 22, 2020
Minutes

An online (Zoom) meeting of the Session of The Downtown Presbyterian Church (DPC) was held on Sunday, November 22, 2020.

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

An opening prayer was offered by Ms. Turner at 3:04 PM.

Approval of Agenda

Motion to approve the agenda from Ms. Coffin, second from Mr. J. Byl; the motion carried.

Approval of minutes from October 25 meeting

Motion to approve minutes from the October meeting from Mr. Coleman, second from Ms. Gentry; the motion carried.

Moderator's Report – see posted report

The Awakening Souls meetings were productive and meaningful.

Treasurer's Report – see posted report

Pledged donations are holding pace as expected, but other revenue is not. Some capital expenditures are coming up.

Ms. Hayes's epidemiology report: Numbers are not good, but they're not bad. The number of new cases is not going higher. It's possible people are not being tested, even if they're sick. Medical resources are being stretched regionally.

Clerk's Report

The clerk reported that Paul (PJ) Coffin has joined another church, thereby defaulting his membership in DPC.

Motion by Ms. Coffin, second from Mr. Coleman to accept the removal from the membership rolls of Mr. Coffin; the motion carried

COVID-19 planning

Should *The Contributor* staff be reduced? Would COVID safety signs on the walls be a good idea? There seems to be some lack of attention to safety requirements.

Action Item: Rev. Wilson to write some general "best practices" thoughts and send them out by email to all those who use the DPC building.

Thoughts on Saturday Breakfast gatherings: The line is forming, some without masks, since food distribution moved later to 8:00. To help this, keep the line moving by handing bags out.

Committee Reports

Building & History – met November 11 – *see posted report*

Communications about building improvement have been excellent. Mr. Hoobler has stepped into Micheal Korak's shoes very tactfully. Mr. Korak is grateful that the work is being carried on.

For *The Contributor* use of the building, considering the future use of more square feet, should the monthly fee be increased to \$650? This decision needs more research.

Finance – met November 11 – *see posted report*

A proposed budget for 2021 is being put together. Pledges are being made online, and they're off to a very slow start. Maybe we can work on the budget at the December meeting of the Session.

Outreach – met November 19 – *see posted report*

The committee is asking for videos from Outreach partners to be posted on the DPC Facebook page. Will give out 100 \$100 gift cards for Dollar General for the Valentine's Day giveaway to people without homes.

Worship & Art –

Conversation about how Sunday worship is going. It may be next year before government caps on gatherings are lifted. In-person worship will be postponed until mid-January or until the city of Nashville moves to pandemic Phase 3. If the musicians can make it work, maybe the worship services can be filmed on Saturday mornings. This may begin on Saturday, November 28th, for posting on Sunday, the 29th.

The Lessons and Carols service will be entirely pre-recorded.

Motion from Mr. Maddox, second from Ms. Coffin to have the Christmas Eve service posted on Facebook at 5:00 PM, December 24th; the motion carried

Communications Committee – met November 10 – *see posted report*

The deadline for annual reports to be submitted to the DPC office will be January 18th.

The video of Jim Hoobler's historical perspective is almost ready to be posted on YouTube.

Nominating Committee –

Ruling elders have been secured and elected. Nom Comm will work on at-large Nom Comm members for 2021.

Project Thrive – Pastor Mike and Mr. Maddox update

The leaders of Nashville's Project Thrive have experience, giving confidence for the success at DPC. The congregation will be brought into the conversation via Zoom meetings. The Session must agree that we will be working on it.

Members of the 2021 Project Thrive team are David Maddox, Samera Zavaro, Tom Wills, Dixie Williamson, and Conn McConnell.

Motion from Mr. Maddox to commit the Session and the Church to the Project Thrive process, second from Mr. Byl; following discussion, the motion carried.

Congregational Care and Life issues

Michael Korak, Faye and Jim Dickson, Ridley and Irene Wills, Emily Zavaro are in need of prayers and care.

Next Meetings:

Session: Sunday, December 20

Annual congregational meeting — Sunday, February 28

Mr. Coleman volunteered to offer the opening prayer at the December meeting.

Motion from Ms. Coffin to adjourn the meeting.

The meeting was closed with prayer at 5:18 PM.

Rev. Mike Wilson
Moderator of Session
The Downtown Presbyterian Church



Vickie Coffin
Clerk of Session