

The Downtown Presbyterian Church
Session Meeting of January 17, 2021
Minutes

An online (Zoom) meeting of the Session of The Downtown Presbyterian Church (DPC) was held on Sunday, January 17, 2021.

In Attendance: Erin Bell, Samera Zavaro, Dave Coleman, Tom Wills, Jim Hoobler, Mary Turner, Jake Byl, Leslee Hughes, David Maddox, Tom Byl, Treasurer Rachel Hayes, Moderator Rev. Scott Huie, and Clerk of Session Vickie Coffin plus DPC congregants

The meeting was called to order by Rev. Huie at 2:38, and he introduced himself and led us in a devotional moment.

An opening prayer was offered by Ms. Turner.

Questions and concerns were expressed by DPC congregants:

Stephanie Coleman: What do we see in the future, what comes next?

Jake Byl response: Pulpit supply for the next weeks or months, an interim pastor for months after that, forming a Pastor Nominating Committee (PNC) to seek a pastor. Rev. Scott Huie will moderate session meetings, committees and staff will take on additional roles.

David Maddox response: We will be involved in Project Thrive. It will require congregational involvement. We will commit to five years with guidance from a bigger community.

Samera Zavaro elaborated on Project Thrive plan details.

Tom Byl expressed his reconciliation with the session decision about Rev. Wilson. He said that our PNC should remember DPC involvement with Project Thrive, because it might define us for the next five years.

Michael Korak: Saw a transition from the previous pastor, Rev. Locke, to finding a Stated Supply Pastor. How long does Rev. Huie imagine this transition taking?

Rev. Huie response: Presbyterians have historically done things with deliberation, meaning to do things "the right way." Different churches take different time lapses. He sees the interim as someone who takes the church forward, helping to grow the church.

David Maddox response: The church decides what they want the interim pastor to do. Over the next couple of years, we need to give much thought to the structure of our church. There's no need to rush to find an interim.

Samera Zavaro comment: I would rather find an interim pastor sooner rather than later, partly so Mr. Maddox won't be overly burdened by searching for pulpit supply.

Session business continued at 3:12.

Approval of Agenda

Request to move the Nominating Committee report to the top of the agenda.

Motion to approve the agenda as revised from Mr. Wills, second from Ms. Zavaro; the motion carried.

Nominating Committee report

David Maddox and Jim Hoobler volunteered to serve on the 2021 NomComm. Rev. Huie recommended seeking guidance from our Executive Presbyters on forming a Pastor Nominating Committee.

Motion from Mr. J. Byl, second from Mr. T. Byl to nominate Mr. Maddox and Mr. Hoobler to the Nominating Committee; the motion carried

Approval of minutes from December 22 meeting

Motion to approve minutes from the session's December meeting from Mr. J. Byl, second from Ms. Turner; the motion carried.

Treasurer's Report – see posted report

Outreach Committee spent their budget, and capital expenditures were as planned. The budget is on track.

Clerk's Report

A request for a letter of transfer has been sent to the Allardt Presbyterian Church on behalf of Stephen Coleman.

Committee Reports

Personnel

Motion from Ms. Turner, second from Mr. Maddox to accept the resignation of Rev. Mike Wilson; the motion carried

Motion from Mr. J. Byl, second from Ms. Zavaro to give an honorarium of \$4000 to Rev. Wilson; the motion carried.

A \$2000 bonus for William Taylor was recommended.

Responsibility for supervision of church staff: Ms. Hughes plans to meet twice monthly by Zoom with the staff, Mr. Hoobler is to be the point of contact with Paulino Jarquin, Mr. Maddox is to be the point of contact with William Taylor, Ms. Bell is to be the point of contact with Dena Swoner, Mr. T Byl is the point of contact with Suzie.

Finance and Administration - met January 12 - *see posted report*

2021 Budget Presentation

Stephanie Coleman has volunteered to act as co-chair of the Finance Committee.

A capital campaign is needed. A capital campaign is tough, and it can take years.

The draw that is proposed is 15% of the endowment.

Motion from Mr. J. Byl, second from Mr. Maddox to accept the budget as proposed. Discussion ensued. The motion carried.

Building & History - met January 12 - *see posted report*

Standards for use of the building by other churches: Two churches in North Nashville were destroyed by the tornado in March. Consider opening our facility to allow those congregations to use it.

Agreement to allow Ms. Turner to continue going down this path.

Review of electronic marquee presentation: Take out the existing marquee, drop in a new one that is architecturally acceptable to Mr. Hoobler. It will be slightly closer to the building, more visible from Rep. John Lewis Way.

Motion from Building Committee to approve pursuit of electronic marquee; the motion carried.

Adult Christian Education

Suzie Lane is interested in leading an adult/children Lenten education series.

Hospitality

Plans are moving along for the Zoom reception for Rev. Mike. More videos and greetings would be appreciated. Support of the Icemans, who had a baby boy in July, would be welcomed.

Outreach

A mini-meeting was held on January 15 to organize the gift card giveaway.

Fishes and Loaves - met December 10 - *see posted report*

Communications- met December 29 - *see posted report*

Hiring a videographer for worship services: Ms. Bell talked to a Belmont professor, who recommended paying \$150 - \$200 per worship service.

Motion from the Communications Committee to solicit and employ videographer; the motion carried.

Annual Report

Committee reports are due January 18. See a draft of the annual report introductory "Message from the Session." The session approved it. We might want to hold a planning meeting.

Congregational Care and Life Issues

Suzie Lane's mother Ruth passed away.

Action Item: The Clerk is to write a letter of appreciation to John Hilley for leading the funeral service for Judy Barr.

Next Meetings and Reminders

Session Meeting: February 21 at 3:00

Annual Congregational Meeting: February 28 at 12:00

Mr. T. Byl volunteered to lead the session in the opening prayer at the February meeting.

Motion to adjourn from Ms. Zavaro.

Rev. Huie led a closing prayer at 5:37 PM.

Rev. Scott Huie

Moderator

The Downtown Presbyterian Church



Vickie Coffin

Clerk of Session