

The Downtown Presbyterian Church
Session Meeting of December 20, 2021
Minutes

An online (Zoom) meeting of the Session of The Downtown Presbyterian Church (DPC) was held on Sunday, December 20, 2021.

In Attendance: Leslee Hughes, Jacob Byl, Samera Zavaro, Erin Bell, Jim Hoobler, Tom Wills, David Maddox, Treasurer Rachel Hayes, Clerk of Session Vickie Coffin, prospective affiliate members Lucas and Eunice Mburu, Moderator Rev. Larissa Romero

The meeting was called to order by Rev. Romero at 6:38 PM.

An opening prayer was offered by Tom Wills.

Approval of Agenda

Motion to approve the agenda from Ms. Zavaro, second from Ms. Hughes; the motion carried

Approval of Minutes from November 22, 2021, Meeting

Motion to approve the minutes from the previous meeting from Mr. J. Byl, second from Ms. Zavaro; the motion carried

Word from the Moderator - see posted report

Rev. Romero led the session in an exploration of church vitality myth busting, with a deeper focus on the myth, "the more people a church has, the more vital and healthy."

Treasurer's Report - see posted report

\$205k has been pledged for the year 2022, exceeding our expectations. We're looking forward to the new year with hope.

- Epidemiology Report

For Davidson County COVID tests, the 7-day average positivity rate is currently 7.1%. It may rise above 10% over the holiday season. It's even possible the Christmas Eve worship services will be affected.

Ideas for responding ranged from moving to completely Facebook streamed (not in-person) worship services to maintaining safer in-person worship services. If needed, the session will have a quick meeting, and more precautions will be put in place.

Clerk's Report

The Mburus from Kenya, Lucas, Eunice, Grace, (14 years old) and Timothy (9 years old) would like to join DPC as affiliate members, transferring their membership from Columbia Presbyterian Church in Decatur, GA. Lucas is an ordained minister of the PC(USA).

Motion from Mr. Hoobler to accept the affiliate membership of the Mburus, second from Ms. Hughes; the motion carried

Committee Reports

- Finance and Administration - met December 13 - *see posted report*

The 2022 budget was discussed and finalized. The annual endowment draw has been revised to 10% of the equity portfolio.

Motion from the Finance Committee to approve the budget as proposed; the motion carried

- Building & History - met December 13 - *see posted report*

It's possible the balcony space will be needed during the Christmas Eve service. Ms. Bell and Denny Harris have made plans to make the space safe for worshippers.

- Outreach - met November 30 - *see posted report*

- Fishes and Loaves - met December 9

- Communications - met in December - *see posted report*

A request was made to elders to communicate committee meetings as far in advance as possible so they can be included in the printed church calendar.

Motion from Mr. Hoobler, second from Mr. J. Byl to accept all committee reports; the motion carried

Project Thrive Updates

A congregational collaboration meeting will be held on Saturday, January 29, at 10:30 AM.

It would be a good idea for elders to check in with DPC family members to see if they have questions about Project Thrive.

Defining our Committees

The session considered possibilities for streamlining committees, making a session of seven more viable.

- May roll Finance, Building, and Personnel into one "Business Management" committee.
- May roll Outreach, Fish & Loaves, Hospitality, Communications, and Events into one "Community & Congregational Engagement" committee.
- May roll Worship & Arts, Education, and Pastoral Care into one "Faith Formation" committee.

Roll-out groups may meet to focus on specific aspects, such as budget, as needed. This will have to be an ongoing conversation for the session. Maybe incoming elders Denny Harris and Betty McConnell will have ideas to contribute.

Congregational Care and Life Issues

Plans will be made to visit the homebound with communion.

Next Meetings and Reminders

Installation of Elders: January 9

Annual Report Submission Deadline: January 17

Session Meeting: January 18 at 6:30 PM

Leadership Retreat: January 21st (at 4:00) and 22nd at Penuel Ridge, TN

Volunteers for Promoting Trust and Connection

- Lead the next session meeting's opening prayer

Jake Byl

- Update the congregation on issues addressed by the session at the next worship service
January 2 - David Maddox

Thanks to Jim Hoobler, David Maddox, Leslee Hughes, and Vickie Coffin for their service in 2021

Motion to adjourn from Mr. Maddox

Closing Prayer

Rev. Romero led a closing prayer at 8:40 PM.

Rev. Larissa Romero

Moderator

The Downtown Presbyterian Church



Vickie Coffin

Clerk of Session

The Downtown Presbyterian Church