

The Downtown Presbyterian Church
Abridged Session Meeting of April 18, 2022 Minutes

An abridged online meeting of the Session of The Downtown Presbyterian Church was held on April 18th, 2022, beginning at 6:30pm. This meeting was limited to action items and all reports were deferred until May for approval.

In Attendance: Erin Bell (clerk), Tom Byl, Betty McConnell, Denny Harris, Tom Wills, Samera Zavaro and Rev. Larissa Romero (moderator)

Excused: Jake Byl, Rachel Hayes (treasurer)

The meeting was called to order by Rev. Larissa Romero at 6:37.

Opening prayer

Approval of agenda:

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

Approval of minutes from the March session meeting was deferred until the May session meeting.

Action Item from Faith Formation (*merging worship & arts with Christian education*):

Session held a conversation with a potential VDS intern. Rev. Romero led a time of guided Q&A, then offered time for the session to ask additional questions. A prayer was offered for the potential intern, then they exited the Zoom meeting. Following a brief discussion, Rev. Larissa shared the highlights of Vanderbilt Divinity School's expectations for the role of an intern and their recommended pay structure.

Action Item from the Clerk:

Motion from Clerk to approve, with regret, the request from Sonya T. to withdraw her membership at The Downtown Presbyterian Church and PC(USA), second by Ms. Zavaro; the motion carried.

Insights from the Moderator:

Rev. Romero shared insights around current church responsibility among leadership. She recommends that each committee spend the next few months defining explicit and implicit duties of committees, chairs, and committee members.

Rev. Romero recommends that session consider a form of shared online storage for committee documents to better facilitate transitions among leadership.

Committee Action Items:

- Admin. Committee (*merging communications with personnel*)

Motion from Ms Zavaro for each committee to review the document on committee duties (created by Rev. Larissa Romero following the January session meeting) and the current committee descriptions on the church calendar website in the next 2 committee meetings (May/June), then share reflections with the session in July. Second from Mr. Harris; the motion carried.

Action Item: Ms. Bell will share the link to the calendar website.

- <https://dpchurch.com/events/full-calendar>

Motion for each committee to add to each month's agenda the setting of the following meeting & events during the meeting, and to notify the office within 3 business days from Ms. Bell, second by Mr. Harris; the motion carried.

Action Item: Rev. Romero will resend the job description document for Rain Morehead.

- Business Management (*merging property, building and history, & finance*)

Motion from the Business Management committee to purchase 3 welcome mats, not to exceed \$1,500; the motion carried.

Action Item: The business management committee will review the financial information from VDS and the current budget. The committee will bring a recommendation on the hiring or not hiring of an intern to our next regularly-called session meeting.

Action Item: Rev. Romero will share with session members the Vanderbilt Divinity School's document regarding interns.

- Community Engagement (*merging hospitality, events, and congregational care*)

- No action items for session.
- Reviewed congregational care concerns and discussed how best to care for our members.

- Missions (*merging Fish & Loaves with outreach*):

Motion from Missions committee to add our logo to a letter from Open Table opposing HB1610, which makes sleeping in public places a felony. The bill has passed, so it could go to the Governor for a veto. The motion carried.

- Nominating:

Motion from Ms. Zavaro to elect ruling elders Denny Harris & Erin Bell to the nominating committee for 2022, second by Ms. McConnell; the motion carried.

Next meeting & Reminders:

- Next meeting: Monday, May 16th at 6:30
- Leadership retreat at Penuel Ridge rescheduled for Friday, June 10 - Saturday, June 11; have spaces to include session members and committee co-chairs.

Volunteers for Promoting Trust & Connection:

- Lead the next opening prayer:
- Update the congregation on issues addressed by the session in an upcoming worship service: Mr. Harris

Motion to adjourn from Ms. Zavaro, seconded by Mr. Harris; the motion carried.

Mr. Wills led a closing prayer.



Rev. Larissa Romero

Moderator

The Downtown Presbyterian Church



Erin Bell

Clerk of Session

The Downtown Presbyterian Church