

The Downtown Presbyterian Church
Session Meeting of February 22, 2022
Minutes

An online meeting of the Session of The Downtown Presbyterian Church was held on February 22, 2022 beginning at 6:30pm.

In Attendance: Erin Bell (meeting secretary), Jake Byl, Tom Byl, Vickie Coffin (Clerk of Session) Denny Harris, Rachel Hayes (Treasurer), Betty McConnell, Larissa Romero (moderator)

The meeting was called to order by Rev. Larissa Romero at 6:45.

An opening prayer was offered by Rev. Larissa Romero.

Approval of agenda:

Motion to approve the agenda from Ms. McConnell, second by Mr. T. Byl; the motion carried.

Approval of minutes from previous meeting:

Motion to approve the minutes from the January 18th meeting and January 30th special-called meeting from Ms. McConnell, second by Mr. T. Byl; the motion carried.

Treasurer report: see posted report

Pledged giving was lower in January. This could be due to virtual/online worship for the month, but it can also be typical for January.

Due to rising utility costs, the budget projection for utilities may be a little low this year.

Clerk's Report: see posted report

Statistical report for 2021 submitted.

Motion to approve the baptism of Maisie Henderson from Mr. Harris, second by Mr. T. Byl; the motion carried. Tentatively planning for March 27th baptism.

Moderator's report: see posted report

Discussion of Mutual Ministry Review, which should occur after the pastor has been at DPC for longer than 6 months, 1 time/year, and not during contract renewals. Intentions are to provide feedback & allow time for adjustments before discussing contracts. Review will be collaborative in nature, with opportunities to celebrate strengths & evaluate "growing edges".

Initial step is to form a leadership team of 3 or more members who are amicable to the pastor's ministry. The pastor & leadership team will discuss current expectations and understandings & collaborate to frame questions for the congregation. The next step would be to bring those particular questions to the congregation for feedback. A survey will be created and shared with the congregation. Recognizing that some things are not easily communicated in a survey format, listening sessions will also be offered so that members can speak privately or confidentially. The survey will not be anonymous.

The mutual ministry review process could be used for other staff positions, however each review needs to be scheduled around individual hiring timelines and not all at the same time. This would be best for ministry-centric positions.

Committee Reports:

- Admin. Committee - *will begin meeting in March.*
- Business Management (*formerly property/building & history & finance*) - see posted report
Motion from the Finance Committee to draw from the DPC Corporation endowment \$20k for church operations; the motion carried.
- Community Engagement - see posted report
Motion to approve the updated wedding guidelines for members and non-members, as shared in the meeting, from Ms. Bell, second by Mr. Harris; the motion carried.

Ms. Bell shared committee plans for congregational care. Church newsletters will be mailed weekly to homebound members and those who do not have internet access. The pastor & Ms. McConnell will visit homebound members the 2nd Sunday of March and offer them communion. Congregational care circles have been formed and leadership has been identified.

- Communications - see posted report
Reminder to submit dates for March activities to the committee by February 25th for inclusion in the month-at-a-glance calendar for the narthex. The intention is to have it in place on the last Sunday of the previous month.
- Faith Formation - see posted report
Motion to allow the choir to sing unmasked as early as March 6th from Mr. T. Byl; second by Mr. Harris; the motion carried.
Motion to disassemble the cantor partition (in the choir loft) from Mr. T. Byl; second by Ms. Bell; the motion carried.
Motion to return to pre-Omicron safety measures (Masks are not required when seated in worship. Masks will be required during congregation singing and when in public/common, shared spaces.) from Mr. T. Byl; second by Mr. Harris.
- Fish & Loaves - no written report
- Missions - *will begin meeting in March.*
- Nominating - no written report
- Outreach - has not met since last session meeting; no written report

Motion from Ms. McConnell to approve the committee reports as submitted, second by Mr. T. Byl; the motion carried.

Project Thrive:

Rev. Romero shared an update on the Belmont University meeting.

Reminder that the congregational collaboration meeting has been moved to 3/20. Meeting will be held in the fellowship hall following the Sunday worship service. Congregational potluck will have a "souper" theme.

Defining church committees:

Brief review of transition to 5 core committees and leadership potential.

Election of Clerk of Session:

Motion to elect Ms. Bell to serve as clerk of the DPC session for the remainder of 2022 from Mr. Harris; second by Ms. McConnell; the motion carried.

The session expressed gratitude to Ms. Coffin for serving as ex-officio clerk for 2021.

Congregational Care & Life Issues:

Review of congregational care concerns and how best to care for our members.

Next meeting & Reminders:

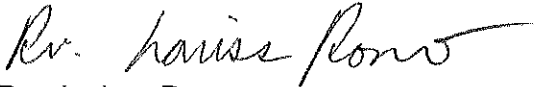
- Monday, March 21st at 6:30
- Leadership retreat at Penuel Ridge rescheduled for Friday, June 10 - Saturday, June 11; have spaces to include session members and committee co-chairs
- Reminder to pick up lanterns from the leadership retreat. They are currently in the chapel, but will be moved to the Pastor's office on Friday, February 25th.
- Need to schedule a session training for building security procedures. The pastor will create and share a Doodle poll to facilitate scheduling.
- Need to review/update the offering counter schedule for February/March.

Volunteers for Promoting Trust & Connection:

- Lead the next opening prayer: Mr. Harris
- Update the congregation on issues addressed by the session at the worship service on Sunday, February 27th: Ms. Bell

Motion to adjourn from Mr. Harris, seconded by Ms. McConnell.

Mr. Harris led a closing prayer at 9:24.



Rev. Larissa Romero

Moderator

The Downtown Presbyterian Church



Erin Bell

Meeting secretary

The Downtown Presbyterian Church