

The Downtown Presbyterian Church
Session Meeting of March 21, 2022 Minutes

An online meeting of the Session of The Downtown Presbyterian Church was held on March 21st, 2022 beginning at 6:30pm.

In Attendance: Erin Bell (Clerk), Jake Byl, Tom Byl, Tom Wills, Denny Harris, Betty McConnell, Larissa Romero (moderator); excused: Rachel Hayes

The meeting was called to order by Rev. Larissa Romero at 6:30. An opening prayer was offered by Mr. Harris at 6:35.

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 February 22nd meeting from Mr. Harris, second by Ms. Zavaro; the motion carried.

Moderator's report: see posted report

- An opportunity was offered for questions regarding the report; none were asked.
- Session members were asked to share something positive from the work of the session in the past 3 month.
- Session members were asked to share goals or ambitions for the next 3-6 months.

Treasurer report: see posted report

Mr. J. Byl shared highlights from the monthly treasurer's report.

Clerk's Report: no report

Committee Reports:

- Admin. Committee (*merging communications with personnel*) - *see posted report*
Action Item: Reminder to submit dates for April activities to the committee for inclusion in the month-at-a-glance calendar for the narthex.
The account for the church's digital sign has been transferred from Verizon to Skykit.
- Business Management (*formerly property/building & history & finance*) - *see posted report*
Mr. J. Byl noted a correction to the committee report. The amount quoted to install security cameras on the exterior of the building was approximately \$11,000, not \$1,100.
- Community Engagement (*merging hospitality, events, and congregational care*) - *see posted report*

Following a discussion of the Waffle Shop survey, the committee voted to return to an in-person event for 2022. The committee is now forming a steering committee, and will schedule a preliminary meeting for the end of April or early May.

- Faith Formation - *see posted report*

Motion from the Faith Formation committee to bring back intinction for communion; the motion carried.

- Note: Disposable containers will be located in front next to the intinction with place for container disposal. Rev. Romero will provide instructions for the communion prior to the observance of the sacrament.

- Missions - *See posted Outreach report. No Fish & Loaves report was given.*

- Nominating - *no written report*

Action Item: Rev. Romero will coordinate a meeting of the outgoing & incoming members of the nominating committee.

Motion from Ms. Zavaro to approve the committee reports as submitted, second by Mr. Harris; the motion carried.

Project Thrive Update:

Reviewed and discussed the recent congregational collaboration.

Defining church committees (follow-up):

Brief review of transition to 5 core committees. An opportunity was offered for questions regarding the transition; none noted.

All committees now have either 2 or 3 co-chairs in a leadership role. Each committee now has at least one non-session member as a co-chair.

Review Covid Procedures and Update as Needed:

- **Motion** from Ms. Zavaro to begin implementing updated Covid procedures (*see below*), second by Mr. Harris; the motion carried.
 - The session recommends a return to pre-covid conditions to the degree possible.
 - Gathering limits/social distancing requirements are not needed at this time.
 - **Action Item:** Prior to March 27th, Erin Bell will remove yarn from the sanctuary and store the yarn/signage so that it can be replaced if needed.
 - Masks continue to be required for nursery workers.
 - Masks are optional for staff, guests, events at DPC, and all volunteers.
 - Masks are still recommended for anyone who is not vaccinated.
 - As noted in the previous motion from the Faith Formation committee, communion will return to pre-COVID communion procedures (intinction) with optional disposable containers for those who prefer them.
 - The Contributor will follow building guidelines (masks recommended) and use staff discretion for their activities.

Potential Intern from Vanderbilt Divinity School:

Rev. Romero has received intern inquiries from 2 students at the Vanderbilt Divinity School. An intern for 2022 would be a non-budgeted expense. Brief discussion of the role of an intern at DPC and consideration of appropriate next steps.

Action Item: Session requests that the Business Management committee evaluate pending projects/requests that are not in the 2022 budget and determine if there is funding for an intern.

Discussion of hiring a part-time A/V Tech:

The session expressed appreciation for Ms. Morehead's work as A/V tech.

Action Item: Session requests that the Admin committee review the A/V tech's current position and job description, and create a contract for session approval.

Congregational Care & Life Issues:

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

Next meeting & Reminders:

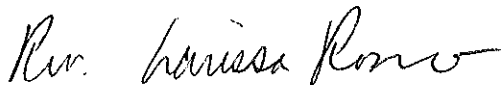
- Next meeting: Monday, April 18th at 6:30
- Leadership retreat at Penuel Ridge rescheduled for Friday, June 10 - Saturday, June 11; have spaces to include session members and committee co-chair.
- Please complete the Doodle poll to help schedule a security briefing and building tour.
- Monthly calendar deadline: Mar. 24

Volunteers for Promoting Trust & Connection:

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

Motion to adjourn from Ms. McConnell, seconded by Ms. Zavaro.

Closing Prayer



Rev. Larissa Romero

Moderator

The Downtown Presbyterian Church



Erin Bell

Clerk of Session

The Downtown Presbyterian Church