

The Downtown Presbyterian Church
Abridged Session Meeting of May 16th, 2022 Minutes

An online meeting of the Session of The Downtown Presbyterian Church was held on May 16th, 2022, beginning at 6:30pm.

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

Excused: Tom Byl, Tom Wills, Rachel Hayes (treasurer)

Opening prayer was led by Ms. Zavaro.

The meeting was called to order by Rev. Larissa Romero at 6:35.

Approval of agenda:

Motion to approve the agenda, as amended, from Mr. J. Byl, second by Ms. Zavaro; the motion carried.

Motion to approve the minutes from the March & April session meetings from Mr. Harris, second by Ms. McConnell; the motion carried.

Clerk's report - *no report at this time*

Moderator's Report:

The moderator's report for this month includes all notes and records since the last (March) session meeting.

Rev. Romero shared an update on membership interest. We have 1 candidate for baptism; session will meet with them in June before baptism in July. Two candidates have also been meeting with Rev. Romero about joining the church, and will meet with the session in an upcoming meeting. Lastly, two people have inquired about joining DPC; Rev. Romero will be following up with them.

Treasurer's Report:

The treasurer was excused; a brief summary was given by Mr. J. Byl.

Committee Action Items:

- Admin. Committee: - *see posted report for April & May*
 - No action items for session at this time.

- Business Management: - *see posted reports for April and May*

Motion from the business management committee for Session to approve funding for a Vanderbilt Divinity School intern in the 2023 budget cycle (10 hours/week at \$15/hour, up to \$2,250); the motion carried.

- Note: Vanderbilt Divinity School will be covering the stipend for the 2022 fall semester.

Ms. Bell & Mr. Harris gave an overview of the parking plan that is ready to be implemented.

Mr. Harris gave an overview of plans to repair or replace the chain across the parking lot.

- Community Engagement - *see posted report for April*
 - Due to scheduling constraints, the community engagement committee did not meet in May. As a result, the committee will be meeting early in July.
 - No action items for session at this time.
- Faith Formation - *see posted report*
 - No action items for session at this time.
- Missions - *no posted report*
 - No action items for session at this time.
 - **Action Item:** Session members requested that the amount given for the One Great Hour of Sharing designated offering be shared in an upcoming meeting.
- Nominating: - *no posted report*
 - No action items for session at this time.
- Project Thrive - *in lieu of a formal report, a summary of the Project Thrive committee's work was provided by Ms. Zavaro*
 - The Project Thrive committee is focusing on goals for community engagement and faith formation. Loose timelines for some areas within these goals have been determined, while others are a work in progress.
 - Committee is identifying subcommittees to work on these aspirational goals:
 - Faith Formation - building a beloved community within our congregation and our downtown neighbors
 - Care circle events
 - Particular events that would appeal to downtown community
 - Game nights in fellowship hall, lunch after church, etc.

Community Engagement - redevelopment/usage of Hibbs building

- A subcommittee will complete a study/inspection of the Hibbs building.
- A subcommittee will identify costs for long-term usage.
- The Corporation will contract a study of development and financial options.
 - The corporation will be considering the Hibbs building as an asset just as they consider the church's endowment an asset.
- Identify community partners, agencies, etc. to partner with DPC

Motion from Ms. McConnell to accept all committee reports as presented , 2nd by Samera; the motion carried.

Follow-up on Committee Restructuring:

- Rev. Romero will meet with session co-chairs to check in on the committee restructuring; check-in on committee expectation, both implicit and explicit.
- The admin committee will consider setting up a shared storage for committees to aid in the upcoming (end-of-year) transition.

Congregation Care and Life Issues:

Next meeting & Reminders:

- Next meeting: June's meeting will be at Penuel ridge, only to cover time-sensitive action items. All other business will be deferred to July.
- Leadership retreat at Penuel Ridge rescheduled for Friday, June 10 - Saturday, June 11; have spaces to include session members and committee co-chairs.
 - **Action Item:** Rev. Romero will send an itinerary for the retreat which will run 4pm Friday to 4pm Saturday.
- The July session meeting will be ____ in person at DPC from 3:30-5:30. We will combine our regular meeting with a tour of the building and security overview. Optional dinner following the meeting to be determined.

Volunteers for Promoting Trust & Connection:

- Lead the opening prayer in our July session meeting: Ms. Zavaro
- Update the congregation on issues addressed by Project Thrive (Ms. Zavaro) and Session (Mr. J. Byl) in an upcoming worship service.

Motion to adjourn from Ms. Zavaro, seconded by Mr. Harris; the motion carried. Meeting was adjourned at 8:24.

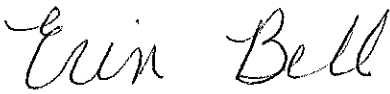
Rev. Romero led a closing prayer.

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read "Larissa Romero".

Rev. Larissa Romero

Moderator

The Downtown Presbyterian Church

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read "Erin Bell".

Erin Bell

Clerk of Session

The Downtown Presbyterian Church