

The Downtown Presbyterian Church
Minutes of the Congregational Meeting, September 24th, 2023

Moderator: Rev. Gary Kelly

Clerk: Erin Bell

A called meeting of the congregation of The Downtown Presbyterian Church was held in the sanctuary on September 24th, 2023 following the 11 a.m. worship service.

Rev. Gary Kelly, honorably-retired teaching elder and current member of the Committee on Ministry, was appointed by the COM to serve as moderator. Rev. Kelly called the meeting to order at 12:05, led the congregation in an opening prayer, and stated the purpose of the meeting: to elect a pastor of The Downtown Presbyterian Church and to approve the terms of call for the incoming pastor.

Erin Bell, clerk of session, served as the secretary of the meeting and established that a quorum was present. Church bylaws define a quorum as one-third (1/3) of active members on the roll of the congregation. A majority of the membership was present.

Rev. Kelly briefly introduced himself to the congregation, then detailed the work of the Pastor Nominating Committee. He then explained that voting would be by paper ballot. The Session appointed Denny Harris and Tara Herbert, ruling elders and active members of the current Session, to serve as tellers for the in-person ballots.

The Session previously approved the option for members and friends to attend the meeting virtually. Members of the church attending virtually were authorized by the Session to vote in equal measure as members attending in person. Ruling elder Samera Zavaro served as moderator of the virtual meeting, and teller of the online ballots. Members who joined virtually voted by direct comment to Ms. Zavaro so that confidentiality was upheld.

Representing the Pastor Nominating Committee, Ms. Debra Gentry shared with the congregation a report of the committee's work. Following a time for questions, Ms. Gentry put forth the recommendation to elect Rev. Zachary S. Sasser as pastor of The Downtown Presbyterian Church." A recommendation of the PNC needs no motion or second.

Moderator: "Are you ready to vote? Would the active members please raise your hand so you can receive a ballot. When you have finished voting, please raise your hand and your ballot will be collected." The tellers designated by the Session counted the ballots. **The result of the balloting was announced and recorded as follows: 47 for the recommendation, none against the recommendation, 2 abstained.** Moderator: "Congratulations, you have elected a pastor."

Moderator: The PNC's recommended terms of call are now before you. All in favor of the terms presented, please say "aye". All opposed, "no". **The terms were approved by voice vote.**

Motion from Mr. R. Wills to elect the present members of the PNC to sign the call on behalf of the congregation, 2nd by Mr. Harris. Are there any objections? The motion carried by voice vote. The terms of call, once signed, will be mailed to the Ms. Mary Catherine Sevier, Stated Clerk of the Presbytery of Middle Tennessee. Once approved by the Session, a copy of these minutes will also be signed and sent to Ms. Sevier.

Motion from Ms. Zavaro to dismiss the Pastor Nominating Committee, second by Ms. Herbert. Are there any objections? So ordered. Rev. Kelly encouraged the congregation to express gratitude to the PNC for their hard work.

Motion from Rev. Kelly to adjourn the meeting, second by the congregation. All in favor of adjourning were asked to rise. The meeting was closed by singing the Doxology.

The meeting adjourned at 12:21.

Rev. Gary Kelly
Moderator
Appointed by the Presbytery of Middle Tennessee

Erin Bell
Clerk of Session
The Downtown Presbyterian Church