

The Downtown Presbyterian Church
Session Meeting Minutes - October 16th, 2023

A meeting of the Session of The Downtown Presbyterian Church was held at the residence of John Booth on October 16th, 2023 beginning at 4:30 p.m.

In Attendance: Samera Zavaro, Tom Wills, Denny Harris, Betty McConnell, Tara Herbert, John Booth, Erin Bell (Clerk), and Rev. Claire Berry (Moderator)

Mr. Harris led an opening prayer. Rev. Berry called the meeting to order at 4:36 p.m.

Approval of the Agenda:

Motion to approve the agenda as presented from Mr. Booth, second by Ms. Zavaro; the motion carried.

Approval of Minutes:

Motion to approve the minutes of the Session's stated meeting and the congregational meeting in September from Ms. Zavaro, second by Ms. Hebert; the motion carried.

Membership Meeting - Matt & Amanda Abfalter (joining via Zoom)

Following a brief introduction, Matt and Amanda Abfalter shared information about their individual faith backgrounds and interest in joining The Downtown Presbyterian Church. Matt and Amanda have been active members of the DPC community for some time, and are well-known by the members of the Session. Matt was baptized at DPC in 2018, and was presumed to be a member, but unfortunately, did not meet with the Session at that time to proceed officially with the membership process.

The Session expressed their joy in welcoming both Matt and Amanda into the full membership of DPC, acknowledging they have been considered members for quite some time. The Session expressed gratitude for the many ways that both Matt and Amanda enrich the DPC community through their presence and commitment to church ministries and missions.

Motion from Ms. Zavaro that Matt and Amanda Abfalter be received into the membership of The Downtown Presbyterian Church by affirmation of faith, second from Ms. Herbert; the motion carried with unanimous approval. Liturgy for receiving Matt and Amanda Abfalter into the church membership will be held during a Sunday morning worship service - date to be determined outside of the Session meeting.

Treasurer/Business Management Report: - see posted report

Ms. Hayes shared the treasurer's report and highlights of the current financial status of the church.

The check for the grant from Wesley has been received and deposited. The church has received a proposed renewal of the building's insurance policy for next year. Mr. Harris and Ms.

Hayes negotiated the insurance contract for 2024. The annual payments will be lowered by raising the deductible to \$25,000.

Clerk's Report:

The session accepted the request from Jewly Hight to withdraw her membership from The Downtown Presbyterian Church.

Committee Reports:

- Personnel - *see posted report*
- Project Thrive - *see posted report*
 - Mr. Harris gave an update on the recent Project Thrive retreat that he and Ms. Hayes attended as a contingency of the \$15,000 grant.
 - Mr. Harris shared that there is a potential for additional funding from Eli Lilly.
 - LOE with Wesley CDC & Gensler is still in progress.
- Business Management - *no posted report*
 - Otis elevator company is coming tomorrow to diagnose the elevator. The Session will evaluate their report once received and proceed accordingly.
- Communications - *see posted report*
 - The committee hopes to begin transitioning the communications deliverables from Erin Bell to the Virtual Ministry Architects representative in the coming weeks.
 - Office management tasks are being delegated appropriately. More attention to this will be given as the new pastor arrives, and his needs are made clear.
- Community Engagement - *see posted report*
- Faith Formation - *see posted report*
 - Nursery workers are needed; will request additional volunteers
 - The high school students can be paid, given they have the babysitting certification.
 - The announcements in worship and create a signup for nursery workers
- Missions - *no posted report*

Congregational Care & Life Issues:

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

Next meeting & Reminders:

- Next Session meeting: November 27th at 4:30 p.m., at the residence of John Booth.
 - Rev. Sasser will moderate the next meeting. The Session expressed their gratitude to Rev. Berry for serving as interim moderator for the past few months. She has been an invaluable support to the Session and to DPC.
- **Reminder:** Please continue to email committee meeting details to info@dpchurch.com.

Volunteers for Promoting Trust & Connection:

- Lead the next opening prayer: Mr. Wills
- Update to the congregation: Tom (1st Sunday) & Conn (Project Thrive)

Motion to adjourn from Ms. Zavaro; the motion carried. The meeting adjourned at 6:52. Rev. Berry closed the meeting in prayer.

Rev. Claire Berry
Interim Moderator
The Downtown Presbyterian Church

Erin Bell
Clerk of Session
The Downtown Presbyterian Church