

Session Minutes

August 24, 2021 Stated Meeting

The Session of the First Presbyterian Church of Evanston held its stated meeting virtually using the Zoom platform on August 24, 2021 at 7:00 p.m.

Present: Rev. Dr. Raymond Hylton, Senior Pastor, Moderator, LeRoy Klemt, Clerk of Session, who recorded the minutes, and Elders: Dan Allen, Bob Bastian, James Bodan, Lisa Bolsen-Fisher, J.J. Ivaska, Rosemary Mauck, Betsey Newenhuyse and Rick Parris. Excused: Bryan Carmody, Kim Klamm and Dick Warnecke

Present by invitation: Hannah McConnel, Director of Worship and Music, Jim Teague, Director of Communications, Caryl Weinberg, Director of Missions, and John Powell, President of the Board of Trustees..

Prayer and Devotion as a Session

Rev. Dr. Hylton opened the meeting with prayer and presented a devotion based on Chapters 11 and 12 of the book “A Church Called Tov: Forming a Goodness Culture That Resists Abuses of Power and Promotes Healing.” These final chapters serve as a summation of the book by utilizing “the Circle of Tov.” The Circle nurtures Christlikeness and resists the leader culture, nurtures empathy and resists a narcissist’s culture, nurtures service and resists the celebrity culture, nurtures grace and resists a fear culture, nurtures justice and resists a loyalty culture, puts people first and resists institution creep, and tells the truth and resists false narratives.

Review of Progress on Reconnecting with Missing and Inactive Members

Bob Bastian presented and led a discussion of a document that listed inactive and missing members. It was suggested that elders, deacons, staff members and others volunteer to be given an individual list of such members for the purpose of contacting them by telephone in order to reestablish their relationship with the church.

Discussion of Strategic Goals for 2022 and Beyond

James Bodan led a discussion of goals for 2022 and beyond. He emphasized that such goals should: 1. Flow from the Mission Statement 2. Clearly define proposed action 3. Represent a single set of priorities 4. Be a north star 5. Establish a three-to-five-year outlook and 6. Develop a process that is synchronized with financial planning and the church calendar.

Approval of Fall 2021 and Spring 2022 Worship Service Time

Rev. Dr. Hylton led a discussion concerning a single worship service starting at 9:30 a.m.

The motion was made and seconded to hold a single worship service starting at 9:30 a.m. beginning on September 12 2021 and continuing through May of 2022.
The motion carried

Update on the Governance Task Force, the Leadership Initiative and the Growth Task Force

LeRoy Klemt presented a brief update on the Governance Task Force and other Session initiatives. He presented dates in September for presenting to the congregation the four major challenges/opportunities facing the church. It was determined that he and Rev. Dr. Hylton would continue their discussion as to when the presentations should be scheduled.

Update on Building Usage and 2022 Budget Process

John Powell presented an updated report on building usage that reflected recent actions taken by the Governor of Illinois and the City of Evanston Health Department. These require all persons over the age of two to wear masks while indoors in public areas. Signs will be posted to that effect at or near all church entrances.

Mr. Powell also presented an update on the 2022 budget process.

Clerk's Report

Clerk's Omnibus Motion

**The motion was made and seconded to approve the Clerk's omnibus motion.
The motion carried.**

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CLERK'S OMNIBUS MOTION August 24, 2021

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

RESOLVED, that the minutes of the July 27, 2021 Session Meeting be and are hereby approved.

MEMBERSHIP REPORT, INCIDENTAL LISTS, STATUS CHANGE REQUESTS, AND BAPTISM REQUESTS

RESOLVED, that the July 2021 Incidental Lists and Membership Report; and the August 2021 Baptisms and Membership Status Change Requests be and are hereby approved and incorporated in these minutes as if they had been fully set forth therein.

COMMUNION

RESOLVED, that Holy Communion was celebrated in person at the streamed 10 a.m. Sunday Worship Service on August 8, 2021.

BAPTISM

RESOLVED, that the Baptism of Iris Marguerite Witwer, the daughter of Michael and Kalysta Harmon Witwer, was celebrated on August 8, 2021 and that the baptisms of Jacob Collins, Faith Yao, Brett Pender and Konstantine Savoy were celebrated on August 15, 2021.

RECEIPT OF WRITTEN REPORTS

- **Community Life and Pastoral Care Council Minutes 8-10-21**
- **Worship Ministry Council Minutes 8-10-21**
- **FPCE 2021-2022 Proposal (Ministry Architects) 8-12-21**
- **FPCE Governance Task Force Update 8-13-21**
- **Site Supervisor Reference Guide and Resources**
- **Missing Since Pandemic 8-14-21**

Pastor's Report

Rev. Dr. Hylton led a brief discussion of the need for elders to assist with communion on September 5 and also presented a brief report, with assistance from J.J. Ivaska, on the ongoing search for a new Director of Finance and Accounting.

Rev. Dr. Hylton also led a discussion concerning hiring Jixun Hu, a member of the church and a student at Garrett Seminary, as a student intern beginning in September 2021 and continuing through May 2022. Rev. Dr. Hylton will act as Jixun's Site Supervisor during his term as a student intern.

The motion was made and seconded to approve hiring Jixun Hu as a student intern, with a stipend of \$4,500, for the period of September 2021 through May of 2022. The motion carried.

Questions and/or comments regarding Board/Council Minutes

None

Joys and Concerns

Bob Bastian and others expressed their joy at viewing the outstanding video of the church picnic and the adult baptisms that took place on August 15.

Adjournment in Prayer

The meeting was adjourned and closed in prayer by Caryl Weinberg at 9:30 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted,
LeRoy Klemm, Clerk