

June 9, 2020

Regular Meeting of the Session

First Presbyterian Church, Lincoln, Illinois

The on-line Zoom Session meeting was called to order at 6:01 p.m. by the Rev. Adam Quine. In attendance were Elders Cherie Aper, Cathy Maciariello, Debbie Schweitzer, Paul Kasa, Bob Chamberlain, Jim Alexander, Cathy Tiffany, Stuart Churchill and Clerk Connie Boss. A quorum was declared present.

The June Agenda was approved. Prayer for the evening included a reading of Psalm 7; the Gospel lesson Matthew 15, verses 29-39.

The Session minutes from May 12, 2020 were approved. It was noted in order to be consistent with past practice, flowers were NOT sent to a parishioner as stated in the minutes.

Clerk of Session Report – report in Dropbox; discussion below:

Attendance: May 3rd: 66; May 10th: 55; May 17th: 65; May 24th: 62 and May 31st: 50.

Baptisms: None. Deaths: None.

Communion was celebrated May 3, 6, 13, 20, 27 and Pentecost May 31.

Communications from the Logan County Health Administrator and Christian Horizons were shared.

Pastor's Report – report in Dropbox; discussion below:

- Last week Rev. Quine wrote a personal theological reflection on recent events. Upon a request from one parishioner he made the reflection public. One parishioner read it and expressed disappointment. He shared the parishioner's concern and his response. After discussion the Session supported Rev. Quine. All people have the constitutional right to express themselves. In addition, the response was theologically based. No action was needed by the Session.
- Laurie Hill of St. John's Church has requested the two churches team up and have a conversation about racism by reading the book White Fragility during the month of July. It would show the community we are willing to listen and learn about the role we play in systemic racism while committing to making Lincoln a safer place to live. The Session approved the reading the book and working with St. John's Church.
- The University of Illinois (check website) has some antiracism curriculum as well as does the Smithsonian Museum of African American History and Culture.
- Rev. Quine will participate in a Prayer Vigil to be held at the Logan County Courthouse June 10 at 6 p.m.

- Rev. Quine has applied for Sabbatical. If approved it will be about 3 months (Aug, Sept, Oct 2021) and planning two weeks' vacation before and after.

Mission and Outreach Committee –

- The Summer Lunch Program continues June 1-July 3 with hot meals served Monday, Wednesday and Friday. Cold lunch bags are distributed at the same time to provide food for Tuesday and Thursday. Approximately 525 meals are being provided.
- The Food Pantry continues to need items our church generally provides. A tote has been placed at the office door for such items, which will then be taken to the Food Pantry.

Worship Committee –

- The committee continues to keep the Sanctuary attractive throughout the church seasons.
- Julie will continue to provide music through June. Chet will be on vacation June 28.
- A search team continues to work on a replacement for the music director.
- Chet and Julie plan a recital toward the end of July.

Fellowship Committee –

- Plans continue to honor Julie Kasa, retiring Choir Director.
- Tuesday's *Tea At Two* will continue via zoom.
- Kirk Night has been suspended during the summer months.
- A virtual scavenger hunt is being considered.
- The committee is contemplating a church reception for the Reynolds who will be moving mid-July.

Administration Committee – (report in Dropbox; discussion below):

- Ramp work will start August 1; 50% down payment is due July 1 in the amount of \$24,281.
- Fitzpatrick Construction has been approved to (1) remove sillcock and water line and cap off (\$190); (2) remove plywood and infill opening with stone (\$500); (3) remove and replace downspout and route upper downspout into gutter (\$734); (4) patch concrete on one side and of one step on Ottawa Street where railing is attached; (5) in garage, cut and cap off plumbing at floor, remove tub and stool, infill 4 window openings with studs and insulation, install OSB and vinyl siding on exterior, hang drywall on ceiling and 3 walls (\$3,307) All work performed by Fitzpatrick will be paid from the building maintenance budget.
- Will have Sanctuary carpet deep cleaned while we are not yet meeting in the church.

- Local artisan, Jason Hoffman indicated the wood doors can't be refurbished due to their poor shape. We will pursue replacement options.
- Awaiting a quote for sealcoating on the parking lot.
- AT recommended the Homefield electric rate proposal of \$0.4719 per kilowatt hour which will run through October 2022. This is the company approved by the Lincoln City Council. The Session approved the new electric rate from Homefield Energy.
- The Session approved Chris Thomas return to the church office three days a week. The Sexton will continue with 15 hours a week cleaning and sanitizing.

Treasurer's Report – (report in Dropbox; discussion below):

- Income and Expenses are running close. Budget planning season will begin soon. Rev. Quine will ask the Treasurer to join the meeting in July.

Motion was made to accept all reports, unanimously approved.

New Matters –

The Session spent considerable time reviewing suggested guidelines for a gentle reopening. Should positive COVID19 cases continue to decline, Illinois could reach Phase 4 on July 1. At that point the First Presbyterian Church could begin working towards in-house worship services. The Session approved the printed Guidelines for the First Presbyterian Church's Gentle Reopening. In addition,

- Cathy M, Paul, Cherie, Jim and Adam will measure and map the sanctuary to see how many people can be safely seated.
- The Sanctuary carpet will undergo a deep cleaning prior to services resuming.
- Pew cushions will be sanitized. Pew sanitation will be performed after all church services.
- Knowing several folks will not feel comfortable resuming in-house worship, virtual worship will continue via Zoom and/or Facebook.
- On July 12th Deacons, Elders and the Worship Committee ONLY, will be invited to participate in worship in the Sanctuary. Immediately afterwards, they will discuss what needs to be done before in-house services are open to everyone. (The guidelines appear to address everything.)
- July 19 has been selected as a tentative date when those who are comfortable can return to worship in the Sanctuary. We will come up with a process to ensure that we maintain proper social distancing.
- Parishioners should note there will be no singing, no reciting, no pew Bibles (bring your own), no hymnals, and no bulletins.
- Masks will be required. Seating will be designated.

- Connie and Cathy will work on a letter communicating our plans to the entire congregation.

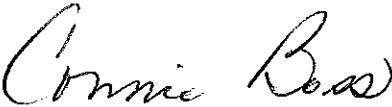
The next Session meeting will be held July 14, 2020.


The meeting adjourned at 8:00 p.m. followed by a closing prayer by Cathy Tiffany.

Motions approved:

- Accepted the Session minutes of May 12, 2020.
- Approved a book study entitled White Fragility as a combined effort to work with St. John's Church in promoting antiracism.
- Accepted the new electric rate from Homefield Energy.
- Accepted all Committee Reports.
- Accepted the Treasurer's Report.
- Approved the potential reopening of in-house services July 19, if the State of IL reaches Phase 4.
- Approved the printed Guidelines for the First Presbyterian Church's Gentle Reopening.

Respectfully submitted,


Connie Boss, Clerk of Session


The Rev. Adam R. Quine, Pastor