

January 14, 2020
Regular Meeting of the Session
First Presbyterian Church, Lincoln, Illinois

The Session meeting was called to order at 6:00 p.m. by the Rev. Adam Quine. In attendance were Diane Osborn, Clerk; Ruling Elders Roger Boss, Cherie Aper, Cathy Maciariello, Debbie Schweltzer, Paul Kasa and Bob Chamberlain. Also attending were new Elders Stuart Churchill, Cathy Tiffany and James Alexander. Guests Beth Green and Connie Boss. A quorum was declared present.

Following prayer in the Chapel, the January Agenda was approved.

The Session approved the (attached) December 10, 2019 minutes and the December 22, 2019 Congregational Meeting minutes (attached). The Session thanked Elder Cathy Tiffany for working with the 2021 Nominating Committee consisting of Deacon Kelli Owens and Nancy Schaub, Congregation member.

Clerk's Report (attached) and in addition -

- Thank you note from Holly, Cathy and Marcia in regards to Annie Hieronymus' funeral lunch
- Thank you note from Christian Childcare's Head Start Program (Marcia Hieronymus) for the Children's Shopping event.
- Correspondence and a \$100 check from Karla Barry designated to the Center for Creativity and Community
- Certificate of Exempt Status Property Renewal in East Lincoln Township, to be completed by May 29, 2020

The Session approved the election of a new Clerk of Session, Connie Boss and expressed thanks to Diane Osborn for serving as Clerk of the Session.

Pastor's Report (attached).

Reports from the Committees -

- **Mission & Outreach** considered the Christmas Shopping Project successful, serving 104 children with more than 400 gifts. The Angel Tree Project served residents of the Christian Village. Congregational donations of \$1,050 supported 25 gift cards for kids at Kemmerer Village. It was asked if the church donates to the Martin Luther King breakfast - it is part of the Mission giving.

- **Worship & Spiritual Formation Report (attached).** Thank you's were given to Cathy, Julie and Chet for Lent seasonal events.
- **Fellowship (attached).**
- **Admin Team (attached) plus further discussion -**
 - (a) \$640 in Christmas décor for outdoor evergreen roping was posted to the Deacons; however there was a line item of \$640.50 posted to the Worship Committee's budget. Posting this amount to the Worship Committee is correct. Question was raised whether to continue with the outdoor roping or use that money for inside decorations which are old; referred back to Admin Team to discuss further.
 - (b) The Session had asked, with approval of the Admin Team, to transfer a total of \$10,000 from the surplus of the 2019 Farm account to the Center for Creativity fund. \$5,000 will be transferred now. The remaining \$5,000 will be transferred if a Presbytery grant comes through and/or when other contributions match \$5,000. This would help support the program with outside speakers, etc. All were in favor; motion carried.
 - (d) It was also noted that \$300 in taxes were paid out by the church in 2019 for items which the church is tax exempt. Future purchasers need to take a copy of the church's tax exempt letter with them when making purchases.

The source of income was explained to new Session members. They include the General Operating Fund, Memorials (gifts designated for specific areas), multiple CDs, Farm income and the Building Fund. It was recommended anytime there is a bonus of money i.e. unspent or surplus, that 25% be given back to the Mission budget rather than stockpiling an excess. The recent budget notes mission work took a decrease. Refer back to Admin Team.

It was reported the 2019 BBQ income was approximately \$6,000 – which is designated to mission work, however, it is thought funds were going to the General Fund. Refer to the Admin Team to review and correct if needed.

- **Treasurer's Report** ended in the black \$7,773. It was noted maintenance use doesn't always equal line items in the budget; perhaps this needs to be further assessed by the Admin Team and Treasurer. Motion was made to accept the Treasurer's report.

A recommendation was made to approve Mel Anderson as Treasurer for one year. Motion carried.

Motion was made that the Session meet the 2nd Tuesday of each month in the year 2020 with a quorum of at least six Elders. Members will need to report absences to Connie, Adam or Chris. Motion carried.

Recommendation was made to elect a Presbytery Delegate from Session, to join Adam at Presbytery meetings four times a year. This was tabled; to be discussed with Adam later.

Committee functions and roles were explained to new members. It was suggested Adam have a meeting with the new members to further discuss desires and interests.

Session members discussed Church Consultant options. (1) Molly Grisham from St. Louis is available for a ½ day session, to discuss future planning for our church and offer an outside perspective. Fee is \$750 for ½ day session which includes her travel. (2) is a listening session exploring and discussing conflict issues. It is less money but does not provide the same conversations and discussions. Option #1 was felt the better opportunity to discuss pastor and congregation visions now as compared to the past, particularly since the congregation is smaller. It was suggested this be done as a weekend retreat. Adam will discuss some dates with Molly.

Dropbox instructions were explained to new members. For the most part, paper copies will not be provided so we can be good stewards and use less paper. It is important that all reports be turned in on time for dropbox preparation.

It was suggested a 48 hour time limit be set for e-mail approvals by Session members. Motion passed. Email addresses were updated.

The Communion sign up sheet was completed as was the Session Prayer sheet.

Fat Tuesday will be February 25, discussed whether to host pancake supper or not; to be discussed at Worship Committee.

The Session thanked Beth, Diane and Tracy for serving as Elders and members of the Session.

Following closing prayer by Roger Boss the meeting adjourned at 7:45 p.m.

Motions approved:

Elected new Clerk of the Session Connie Boss.

Transfer \$5,000 from the 2019 Farm account (surplus money) to Center for Creativity now.

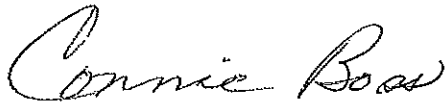
Accepted Treasurer's Report.

Approved Mel Anderson as Treasurer for 2020.

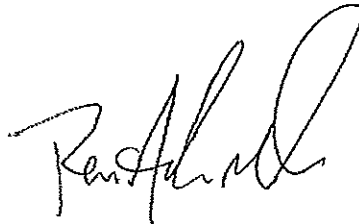
Session meetings be held 2nd Tuesday of each month with a quorum of at least six (6) Elders.

Set a 48 hour time limit for email approvals by Session members.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Connie Boss".

Connie Boss, Clerk of Session

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Rev. Adam R. Quine".

The Rev. Adam R. Quine, Pastor

First Presbyterian Church, Lincoln, IL
Clerk of Session Report
1.14.20

December Attendance: 1) 75; 8) 76; 15) 85; 22)57; 24) 106; 29) 57;

Baptisms: none;

Deaths: None;

Communion Dates: 1, 4, 8, 11, 15, 21, 22, 24, 29;

Communications:

E-vote approving recommendation of Administrative team to move unused 2019 maintenance funds to the Capital Improvement fund;

E-vote approving Administrative team recommendation to increase the salary of the church treasurer by \$120 to an annual total of \$2,930, amounting to \$255 per month;

Request from Kyle Frick to remove his name from the active membership list, and to place his name on the Friends of the Church roll;

Request from Gary Davis to provide additional training support for worship assistants;

And the following correspondence from the Presbytery:

Emergency Relief in the form of a free will offering is being requested for the Korean United Presbyterian Church of Springfield, 2501 E. Sangamon Ave., whose chapel was more than half destroyed when the elderly driver of a vehicle sustained a medical emergency and his vehicle crashed through the Chapel wall;

The Stated Clerk is inviting Presbyterians to join in 180 Days of Prayer leading up to the 224th General Assembly in Baltimore which commences June 20; and

Deacon/Elder training is being offered Saturdays Feb. 22 at Normal First and 29 at Third Presbyterian, Springfield, from 8:30 a.m. to noon.

Notes from Clerk:

Written reports from all teams and committees should be sent to the Administrative Assistant no later than the Friday following Session meetings.

We need to create a timeline policy for e-mail votes.

Diane Cherry Osborn, Clerk of Session

The newness of the year beginning around two minor feast days on the liturgical calendar is fitting. It is as if those who created the calendar were mindful of the ways the Western world ordered itself throughout the year. However it came to be, in less than two weeks, Christ has been revealed to the nations and baptized—both of which have direct implications on the way we live our lives.

In the Epiphany, God is made known in Christ, and Christ's light becomes our own. Together, when we shine our individual lights collectively, we become a beacon of hope—a light unto the community. The baptism of Christ reminds us of our own, and we give thanks! But it also moves us to live as a baptized people—a new creation sealed in Christ's ministry. We were given gifts in our baptismal waters that are meant to be shared. As a people of the star and the water, we know our lives are not meant to be carried out in isolation but in community.

The church is the community of faith, God's people assembled in Christ's name and alive by the Spirit of God. Worship is about God. It is not about us in any way—especially not about the pastor. The head of the church is Christ and Christ alone. All that we say and do in and through worship is to God's glory. Once worship and our ministries become about us, we no longer exist as that alternative community but become just another civic club. The Gospel is what we are about and must be placed before us as a way not only to guide and instruct but to inspire and heal. As the Session of the First Presbyterian Church, this is our responsibility.

The position of elder is the oldest active office still being used in the Christian church, today. Ruling elders (along with ministers of the Word and Sacrament) exercise leadership, government, spiritual discernment, and discipline and have responsibilities for the life of a congregation as well as the whole church, including ecumenical relationships. Together, we are responsible for three things:

1. to provide that the Word of God may truly be preached and heard;
2. to provide that the Sacraments may be rightly administered and received; and
3. to nurture a covenant community of disciples of Christ.

Every time we assemble, whether it be for worship, session, or any meeting/gathering at church, it would do us well to keep these three responsibilities before us. We are a team. The pastor and the session are the ones who, with God's help, carry out the ministry of Jesus Christ in our community. We are truly the body of Christ. If one part of the body is sick, we must tend to it and do our part until the illness is gone. A body divided will cause pain externally and internally. It is important that if there are issues within the session that we discuss it openly and honestly. What are famously known as “parking lot meetings,” or “meetings after meetings,” become divisive not only for the session, but for the larger church. As it says in the *Book of Order*:

The mission of God in Christ gives shape and substance to the life and work of the Church. In Christ, the Church participates in God's mission for the transformation of creation and humanity by proclaiming to all people the good news of God's love, offering to all people the grace of God at font and table, and calling all people to discipleship in Christ. Human beings have no higher goal in life than to glorify and enjoy God now and forever, living in covenant fellowship with God and participating in God's mission (F-1.01).

I would not have used the language above, but this section from the *Book of Order* captures why I am a pastor. The mission in my life, or the “Why” in my ministry, is because everyone needs to know they belong, and they have that place and they need not fear if they will be accepted or not. I love because God loves me—just as I am, as the old hymn goes—and Love is why we do anything we do. I am a minister because I believe the church is one of the only places where the reign of God can begin and where we can be free from the politics of what it

means to be human. The paradox of this is that the church is not meant to be a 'holy huddle,' or exist as a silo in isolation, but we are to be the hands and feet of Christ's ministry. Jesus was relational and so should we be beyond those we know as members of our church.

Often times I must remind myself that I am not the one who makes this ship go. It is the Holy Spirit. Church is not about me or my ministry. Nothing I do will move the spirit of Love if I do not begin with the foundation—which is Christ. I ask you session friends to consider what is the foundation of your ministry here at church. What might have slipped in unintentionally and has replaced Christ as the head of the church? If we worship the Triune God who exists in community, in what ways might we further this love in the way we order our lives? What is our hope as a church? If there is something we fear or are anticipating will happen if a loss occurs at church, we might need to contemplate where and why this fear exists.

If you are uncertain about what I am talking about, I turn once more to the *Book of Order*. What is the calling of the church?

F-1.0301 The Church Is the Body of Christ

The Church is the body of Christ. Christ gives to the Church all the gifts necessary to be his body. The Church strives to demonstrate these gifts in its life as a community in the world (1 Cor. 12:27-28):

- The Church is to be a community of faith, entrusting itself to God alone, even at the risk of losing its life.
- The Church is to be a community of hope, rejoicing in the sure and certain knowledge that, in Christ, God is making a new creation. This new creation is a new beginning for human life and for all things. The Church lives in the present on the strength of that promised new creation.
- The Church is to be a community of love, where sin is forgiven, reconciliation is accomplished, and the dividing walls of hostility are torn down.
- The Church is to be a community of witness, pointing beyond itself through word and work to the good news of God's transforming grace in Christ Jesus its Lord.

Friends, I look forward to serving with you in the coming year. We have a lot of ahead of us. Many conversations, both fruitful and difficult ones, will be had around this table and in our time together. But I believe in the work we have done, are doing, and will continue to do, because the Spirit guides us, Christ goes before us, and God is reforming us even now.

Home Communion Visits: James & Joyce Shirley, Lois Leesman, Marilyn & Julius Kasa, Dorothy Drew, Thelma Briggs (Visiting this month: Mary Wilson, Kenny & Margo Schwab, Daryl & Carole Halladay)

Continuing Education

- 01/7-01/10 @ Eden Theological Seminary for Writing Retreat: beginning thesis work, plan to propose in February, and graduate as early as Spring 2021, but more likely fall of 2021.
- Springfield Coalition on Dismantling Racism: Springfield, IL: February 6-8, 2020: Analyzing & Understanding Systemic Racism Workshop at First Presbyterian Church, Springfield
- September 19-25, 2020: Writing and Researching at The Abbey of Iona, Scotland (tentative)

Vacation

- April 24-April 27, 2020—Running the Humana mini-marathon (half) on Saturday April 25. I am running to raise funds for JDRF

January Fellowship News

A First Saturday, January 4, coffee was held at Guest House on the square, 9-11 a.m.

After worship on January 12, we can "Walk With Friends". An impromptu lunch can be planned as we chat and walk together probably at Big R. A sign up sheet is in the fellowship hall.

Join friends and sign up, also, for a trip together for a 7:15 p.m. Peoria RIVERMEN hockey game on Friday, January 17, with a possible meal as we share rides. Check your calendar!

A fellowship meeting was held January 7, at 4:30 p.m., where we planned new experiences for our church friends.

Mark your calendar for these new outings --

- Friday, February 7 – attend the Lincoln Community Theater Mid-Winter Cabaret, 7 p.m. at St. John's Church. It will be an evening of live music, complete with desserts and coffee. Tickets are necessary (\$15) and there will be a new assign - up sheet.

- March 20 is a night with Harriet Tubman, a night to hear about the Underground Railroad from presenter Kathryn Harris at the Atlanta Museum. A 5:30 supper at the Palms Grill also covers your ticket unless you wish to come only for the presentation at 7 p.m.(\$10)

Debbie Schweitzer & Beth Green

Admin Team Report

January 2, 2020

Present were Adam, Keith Leesman, Rob Harmon, Mel Anderson and Roger Boss.

Building & Grounds

Todd Parks met with the committee concerning our church doors. We had previously met with him for a walk through of the church as well as the former boy scouts side of our garage on the alley.

Todd checked with RP Lumber who basically has residential doors. We could use, but for commercial use they would not be warranted, as modifications may be needed to fit enclosure. Residential use would have 5 year warranty.. His thoughts were to use an aluminum frame with wood and glass, rather than fiberglass, As we have no cover (overhang) above our doors, he feels fiberglass would deteriorate more rapidly. He will contact a company or two he knows in Bloomington. They will contact us. Parks Construction would install once a decision has been made.

Financials

- The committee found \$640 in Christmas décor was posted to Deacons. This was amount spent on outdoor advent garland. Though the garland is a nice addition, it is thrown away after use. Perhaps something more resourceful could be done the future.
- Worth putting in the bulletin and Link: \$300 in taxes has been paid in 2019 by the church for items for which the church is tax exempt. Future purchasers need take a copy of the church's tax exempt letter with them when making purchases.

Personnel

- Leo's hours are being transitioned from salaried to hourly. Adam is planning a walkthrough with Leo to note priorities.

Center For Creativity

Laura Elliott's contract was presented and approved. The church will provide around \$8,000 for the project this year. Adam stated there are currently 14 in the program.

Roger Boss

Keith Leesman