

July 14, 2020

Regular Meeting of the Session

First Presbyterian Church, Lincoln, Illinois

The on-line Zoom Session meeting was called to order at 6:05 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 July Agenda was approved. Prayer for the evening included a reading of Psalm 42. The Session minutes from June 9, 2020, were approved.

Prior to business, the Session was asked to pause for a moment and amid all the COVID concerns think about "What brings pleasure to you right now?" Reflections included freshly mulched flower gardens, unexpected seeds bearing bright sunflowers, revitalized church vegetable garden, reading books and sharing ideas, neighborly gesture of trimming trees in exchange for cherry pies, nature photos through the eyes of an 11 year old niece.

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

Attendance: June 7th 62, June 14th 48, June 21st 58 and June 28th 61.

Baptisms: None. Deaths: Mary L. Wilson 6/15/20 and Joyce A. Shirley 6/27/20.

Communion was celebrated June 7, 2020.

Communications: The Clerk will be signing checks in the absence of the treasurer who is out of town. Connie and Cathy M. have worked with a representative from the Virden Carillon Co. and re-programmed the carillon 7/13/20. Thank you notes were received from Mary Wilson and Bernie DePuy. Great Rivers Presbytery June newsletters have been shared with Elders.

Discussions outside session meeting: On 6/2/20 a request was made for the church to consider applying for the federal forgivable loan (PPP). Discussion with the Treasurer and Admin Team indicated church finances were stable as the church had not been financially impacted by the COVID crisis. With no emergent needs, it was not felt the church was in need of the loan. On 6/19/20 a request to use the Christian Education Building for a training session of census bureau workers was denied as we did not have complete control over such gatherings. On 6/28/20 a request to hold a funeral with more than 50 people was requested; however, the family opted to have services at a country church. On 7/2/20 a request was made to use the Christian Education building for a meeting. After measuring the room and calculating the maximum number of attendees, it was concluded the church was not prepared to open for gatherings yet. Note: The information on building rental is in the Operations Manual.

Session members were asked to respond to email discussions/requests within 24 hours and if voting is required to “reply all”. These serve as official Session business and must be recorded.

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

- Rev. Quine has called on our most vulnerable members weekly or bi-weekly.
- Officiated the funeral for Joyce Shirley.
- Offered a prayer for healing and anointing to a member from the community.
- Provided gas card assistance to a few phone call requests to the church.
- Co-hosted the book discussion “White Fragility” which has attracted more than 15 participants, many of whom are not part of our church. However, due to the increased number of COVID cases, the decision was made to cancel in-person meetings and proceed with Zoom book discussion only.
- The church is having some issues not being able to use all the bandwidth for audio capacity. The office is working with CCA Online.
- Pastor Quine has completed the online portion of the Lilly Endowment Clergy Renewal Program. He will spend August writing his project proposal for his Doctor of Ministry program and will know if it meets the program requirements by mid-October.

Session members were appreciative of Rev. Quine’s ministry in these difficult times when most of it is done remotely. It is also a challenge for him to set up Zoom, Facebook, and YouTube immediately prior to services. Perhaps the time has come to have an AV person available to assist with Sunday morning set up and monitoring the different systems as worship is occurring. As online services may be here to stay, this may require a job description and salary. Also discussed were the different worship options available to the congregation when Rev. Quine is away from the church. At this time there was also a suggestion to stream Sunday services to the prison; the option would be for prisoners to access YouTube.

Mission and Outreach Committee –

- The Summer Lunch Program was considered successful as it ended July 3rd. Hot meals were served Monday, Wednesday and Friday with cold lunch bags distributed for Tuesday and Thursday. More than 300 meals were provided each day.
- The Food for Thought Program remains unclear with it being unknown when and how schools plan to re-open, but it is hoped we can continue to assist in some manner.
- The Food Pantry continues to need items our church generally provides. A tote remains at the office door for such items, which will then be taken to the Food Pantry.
- Logan County has been awarded \$10,553 in federal funds for The Emergency Food and Shelter Program, and an additional \$15,046 in supplement EFSP CARES relief funding – all which must be spent by the end of the year. Paul Kasa and Karen Sams Davis were

asked to look at the program and see if the church could be of some assistance and review the multi-page application form, which needs to be returned by July 20, 2020. Not knowing the needs of the community or the needs of the schools yet, it was not felt there was not enough time to make a plan and distribute money wisely in the remaining five months of the year. The committee continues to look for opportunities to help our community, but there is not enough time to transition this program appropriately.

- Children's Christmas Shopping Event – Due to the pandemic, this program will not be possible this year, but it was suggested that the money budgeted for the program be used in the form of providing gift bags for the kids at Christian Child Care and Head Start. The Mission Committee will consider this recommendation.

Worship Committee –

- With assistance from Julie Kasa, the search team created a job description and the work continues finding a new Music Director.
- Cathy Maciariello was thanked for her work in preparing communication to the congregation regarding guidelines to be followed when in-house services resume.
- Chet and Julie will provide a recorded music recital the end of July.

Fellowship Committee –

- Yard signs were made for members to write on and honor Julie Kasa, retiring Music Director. She was also presented flowers. More to come in Phase 5.
- The committee organized a farewell drive by for Jim and Carolyn Reynolds. A card shower will follow after their move to Iowa.

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

- Ramp work will start August 1.
- Discussed continued leasing or buying a new office copy machine. Session approved to accept the contract provided by GFI Digital for 60 months.
- The Session accepted the proposal from Barrick Enterprises for sealcoating the parking lot, \$5,555.70.
- The Session approved 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.
- Scholarship Applications – information will be placed in the August Link. If no one from the church applies, the committee would like to offer assistance to a Lincoln College student as another means of reaching out to the community. Adam will check the originating documents to see if there are any restrictions that would prohibit us from doing that. First Presbyterian also supports the Martin Luther King breakfast.

- As the ramp work date approaches, the mosaic has been moved to the garage for safekeeping.
- Agreed to have Chris continue with her in-house hours.

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

- General fund balance \$104,092. Memorial fund balance \$45,473. Capital Improvement \$20,609. Farm account balance \$48,161. Farm trust balance \$3,795.
- Income is behind projected budget, but the farm income should help bring that more in line. Expenses are slightly over expected budget.
- Received the July rent for the Klockenga farm agreement of \$10,920.
- First installment of taxes for farm account and farm trust account have been paid.
- Rev. Quine will ask the Treasurer to join the meeting in August.

Motion was made to accept all reports, unanimously approved.

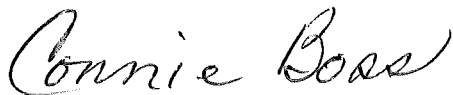
New Matters –

- Executive Session entered at 7:24 p.m. and ended at 7:57 p.m.
- Due to the recent increase in COVID outbreaks in our community, motion was made and the Session unanimously approved to suspend in-person worship and building use indefinitely; to be re-evaluated monthly. Funeral requests will be evaluated by Session if necessary.
- The next Session meeting will be held August 11, 2020. Elders were asked to read the information placed in Dropbox about First Presbyterian Church becoming a Matthew 25 church with focus on dismantling structural racism.
- Elders were reminded to keep several church members and family members in prayer and to celebrate upcoming birthdays and anniversaries as listed in the Weekly or the Link.
- The meeting adjourned at 8:19 p.m. followed with closing prayer by Deb Schweitzer.

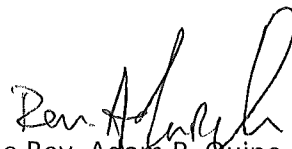
Motions approved:

- Approved the Session minutes of July 9, 2020.
- Approved the contract with GFI Digital to lease office copy machine.
- Approved the proposal from Barrick Enterprise for sealcoating the parking lot.
- Approved the new electric rate from Homefield Energy.
- Approved all Committee Reports.
- Approved the Treasurer's Report.
- Approved to suspend in-person worship and building use indefinitely and to be re-evaluated monthly.

Respectfully submitted,



Connie Boss, Clerk of Session



The Rev. Adam R. Quine, Pastor

