

March 13, 2018

Regular Meeting of the Session

First Presbyterian Church of Lincoln, Illinois

The Session meeting was called to order by the Rev. Adam R. Quine at 6:02 p.m. Ruling Elders Roger Boss, Karen Sams Davis, Cathy Maciariello, Rob Harmon, Beth Green and Tracy Olson were in attendance. Excused were Debbie Schweitzer and Diane Osborn, Clerk of Session. A quorum was present.

A vote was taken and approved to ask Connie Boss to take notes and serve as Temporary Clerk of Session.

The Agenda was approved; motion carried.

Rev. Quine read an opening prayer by Oscar Romero.

Rev. Quine presented a book of past First Presbyterian Church Session Minutes which had been donated by Doreen Gillespie of Belleview, Washington. The minutes had been in the possession of her great-grandfather, David Gillespie, who was serving as secretary/clerk at the time. The records contain information from 1866 to 1880.

The Session then proceeded to the Chapel for evening prayer, reflection and Passing the Peace. Prayers were offered for the Malerich and Bowns families.

The first order of business was to approve the January 9, 2018 Session minutes. Motion was made and approved.

The 2018 Annual Meeting Minutes were reviewed; motion was made to accept and minutes were approved.

Communications: none reported.

In the absence of the Clerk of Session, the Clerk's Report was incorporated within the Pastor's Report.

Pastor's Report, but specifically addressed:

- Shared a reflection of a recently read book "The Art of Pastoring: Contemplative Reflections" by William C. Martin.
- Home communion was served to Curt & Sheila McCallister on Jan 29; Linda & Stu Churchill plus Bill & Shirley Oppen on Feb 1; Lois Leesman on Feb 7; Annie Heironymous on Feb 8; Carol & Daryl Holladay on Feb 9; Marilyn & Julius Kasa plus Dort Gaffney on Feb 15. Visits and communion were also made in latter February to Thelma Briggs, Charles Hendricks and Diane Osborn. Communion was served to Virginia Malerich on March 8.
- Made multiple hospital and home visits, plus responded to correspondences.
- Goals: Begin reaching out to those we have not seen in months/years; developing a congregational care list/shepherds and flocks between Session and Deacons; home communion training.
- **Spiritual Formation and Worship** - continue with Kirk Nights and Bible study on Wednesdays during Lent.
- **Community Development & Organizing** included attending the ALMH Community Health Collaborative Faith Leader Luncheon which discussed opioid usage in the county. Goals: begin outlining outreach ideas, apply for Presbytery grant, and develop rotation for organizations to give "minute for mission".
- **Life Together** Goals: create online presence/calendar on "new" website, Facebook and other social media platforms.

- **Administration** – develop online giving; Nominating Committee session/deacon organization. Goals: online and church calendar, develop an emergency plan, assess 2018 membership roll.
- **Presbytery** involves moderating Middletown, Clinton, and Petersburg Churches, plus acting as Ministry Partner to 2nd Presbyterian Church of Bloomington; Third, Korean & Westminster in Springfield; Farmingdale. Goals: do less in this area. Have yet to attend week 2 of Transition Ministry training which is scheduled for May or October 2018.
- Rev. Quine continues to further his study and for those interested, has uploaded the syllabus from his current class to the church's website
- Time away: Continuing Education April 5, 6 and 26, 27 (DMin studies class ends 5/10/18.) Vacation-personal time April 12-15.

Rev. Quine recently met with Angie Stoltzenburg and local task force members about the current opioid epidemic throughout Lincoln and Logan County. The task force is asking assistance to help provide Narcan kits. On April 15, 2018 the local Culvers restaurant will offer a portion of the days' proceeds towards the purchase of Narcan kits. Churches have been asked to spread the word to encourage patrons to eat at Culvers that day, and provide hands-on assistance. Several Elders expressed a desire to help.

The church has also been asked to help promote breastfeeding. It was suggested the placard be placed on the church door. Designated places to breastfeed could be within the chapel and library.

Reports from Committees -

Ministry of the Hands:

- A vacant building is available on Pulaski Street in downtown Lincoln – is this an outreach opportunity of some sort?

Mission and Outreach:

- Karen Sams Davis reported arrangements are being made for “minute for mission” presentations from “Mom and Me” and the SIU dental clinic.
- Rob Harmon shared an update on the Summer Meals program. Two different sites have been designated to serve lunch three days per week. First Presbyterian has 20 volunteers. Other participating churches include Immanuel Lutheran and Lincoln Christian Church

Ministry of the Heart:

Worship & Spiritual Formation:

- Cathy Maciariello presented suggestions for serving communion during Lent season. The Session discussed the pros and cons of serving communion by distribution vs. intinction. Motion was made and approved that communion will be served by intinction between April 8 and May 13 including Maundy Thursday service on March 29. Five (5) elders will be needed: 1 at each side/station at the front, 2 to go to the back and 1 to assist Rev. Quine. On Easter, 6 elders will be needed.
- Celebration of Life for Virginia Malerich will be Sat. March 24, at Noon. Cathy M. will need assistance with altar re-arrangements. Beth G. offered to help.

Fellowship:

- Beth Green indicated plans are underway for a progressive dinner, possible dates April 21 or 28.
- Awaiting the availability of Patrick and April Doolin who have agreed to share their recent trip to Jordan. Plans are to invite the Trinity Episcopal Church.

- Will visit the local weather station, date to be determined but the meeting time will need to be no later than 5:45 in order to observe the 6 o'clock release of the weather balloon.

Ministry of Resources:

Administration:

- Discussed the opportunity of doing online giving, however, Chris is checking about information required before proceeding.
- A downspout is in need of repair located beneath the office steps. Rick Whiteman will need to dismantle the steps in order to fix the downspout. Rob Harmon will contact Whiteman Construction.
- The new screen and projector are in place; however, some minor problems exist. Adam Q. will make adjustments. Cathy M. will prepare the power point presentation.
- One half-moon stained glass window still needs repaired; the one in the handicapped accessible entrance.
- Roger Boss, Rob Harmon and Tracy Olson provided an update on the insurance coverage of roof damage from last year's storm. Repair estimates have been reviewed. It was concluded that insurance will likely cover half the cost of a new roof, with the church paying the other half. At the same time, a few areas of the church are in need of tuck-pointing. While looking at the over-all needs of the building, the three sets of wood doors need attention since daylight can be seen and cold air is entering. It was the consensus that it would be best to ask the congregation for one fundraiser – where all three areas (roof, tuck-pointing and doors) could be repaired. The committee hopes to have all estimates gathered and a final tally prepared for the next Session meeting.
- The congregation has inquired what would we do if an active shooter entered the church, or if there was a fire. Egress areas are all in the back of the church. Some preliminary suggestions were made, but the Session will continue to discuss and review all options.

Treasury Report – not available.

New Business:

Worship Etiquette – During a recent “Joy and Concern” opportunity one parishioner offered a prayer request that was problematic. Several church members expressed concern for the outburst and how uncomfortable it has become when this person attends worship. – While the Session has the responsibility to keep its members safe, it must also be a welcoming church to all. Several ideas were discussed such as (1) eliminating “joys and concerns” altogether and pointing to the bulletin for people in need of prayer, thus not allowing the opportunity to take the stage, (2) placing prayer requests in the offering plate upon which Rev. Quine would address, (3) asking this person to take a sabbatical from Sunday worship for a few weeks, or attend an alternative service, (4) understand the Church needs to recognize the needs and limitations of some members. The Session concluded that Rev. Quine will address the outburst with the Congregation this coming Sunday morning, explaining that the Session discussed the situation and there will be a personal response to this person, while at the same time protecting the needs and addressing the concerns of the congregation. With that said, Rev. Quine will speak with the person about not returning to worship for a few weeks until he attends several counseling and mentoring sessions with him and the assistance of Curt McCallister.

Election of Clerk moving forward: Approved Connie Boss to record meeting minutes until the return of Diane Osborn, Clerk of Session. Pulpit clerk responsibilities will be shared by Cathy M. and Rev. Quine.

Election of Elder to fill the vacancy of Cass Busby-Elliott: Bob Chamberlain was nominated to fill the vacancy and has agreed to do so; motion carried to accept the nomination.

Installation yet to be performed: Roger Boss as Elder and Annie Hieronymous as Deacon. Adam will coordinate an installation date.

Rev. Quine asked Elders to review all reports and documents prior to the next Session meeting, where discussion will ensue on areas needing a vote.

An updated calendar was shared, including the In-Charge List, Contact Information, and Prayer List updates.

The meeting adjourned at 8:00 p.m.

Rob Harmon closed the meeting with a prayer by Ralph Waldo Emerson.

Respectfully submitted,

Connie Boss, Temporary Clerk of Session

The Rev. Adam R. Quine