

August 11, 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, Cathy Tiffany and Clerk Connie Boss. Excused, were Elders Stuart Churchill and Jim Alexander. A quorum was declared present.

The August Agenda was approved. Prayer for the evening included a reading of Psalm 102. The Gospel lesson was read from John, Chapter 3, verses 22-36. The Session minutes from July 14, 2020, were approved.

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

Attendance: July 5: 52, July 12: 58, July 19: 56 and July 26: 50.

Baptisms: None. Deaths: None

Communion was celebrated July 5, 2020.

**Communications:**

- Shared emails with Elders from Church Mutual regarding safely re-opening church services
- Shared another email from Church Mutual regarding Ministerial Exceptions in the Supreme Court's Civil Rights ruling
- Forwarded an email from Gary Davis regarding financial counseling and assistance to the needy
- Received instructions from the Joyce Shirley Family that memorials go towards the church's building fund
- Shared a letter from Presbytery in regards to raising the per capita amount
- Shared five July newsletters from Great Rivers Presbytery with Session members

**Pastor's Report –**

- Continues to connect with people, particularly those homebound and without technology, reaching out to those celebrating birthdays and anniversaries
- Questioned whether to order "Planning Calendars" which are helpful because they mark the seasons of the church, special church holidays, etc. It was decided he should order a few but not as many as last year
- The White Fragility book study has proven to be fun, educational, and an enjoyable time with members of St. John's

### **Mission and Outreach Committee – report in Dropbox; discussion below**

- Food For Thought – It is unknown how to resume this program with changes happening in the school programs, though hunger is still an issue in the community. The committee plans to send a flyer home with students to parents at Northwest School asking if they would be interested in receiving a free meal for their student on the weekend. The parents will be asked to call the church, and they may be asked if their preference would be to pick up the meal at the church or have it delivered. Adam and Cheri will work on the flyer.
- Children’s Christmas Shopping Event – Due to the pandemic, this program will be modified this year. The committee plans to provide a gift bag for each child and work at creating a form for the children to choose from a list of items they would like to “buy” for their parents. Cathy M. will check with the supervisors of CCC and Head Start to see if this would work.

### **Worship Committee –**

- The committee will meet later this week and plan to discuss World Communion Sunday, Blessing of the Animals, and Advent.

### **Fellowship Committee –**

- Drive-bys were provided for welcoming Sandy Blane home from Mayo’s and birthday greetings for Judy Busby,
- The committee organized a farewell drive by for Jim and Carolyn Reynolds. A card shower is now planned as we have their new address in Iowa.

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

- Kenny Hyde was contacted to provide landscaping services.
- A waterline was discovered at the base of the ramp which needs evaluated, perhaps replaced prior to proceeding with the ramp work. Fitzpatrick will be contacted for an opinion/estimate. Once complete, ramp work will start.
- Hilltop conveyed that due to COVID, the sod material needed for the project won’t be available until fall. The Admin Team instructed Hilltop to start the project and finish when the material becomes available.
- The parking lot has been sealed and striped.
- Waverly Cabinets, in Auburn, have been contacted for an opinion and estimate on wood doors, although composite doors had been discussed in previous meetings. The committee continues to research all options.
- Staff annual evaluations will soon begin.

- Choir Director: The committee is preparing a job posting and circulating the updated job description. Cathy will provide the job description to the Admin Team.
- In regard to Per Capita, the Presbytery has asked how much of an increase the church could afford. Historically, the Presbytery pays our portion and the rate has not been raised in several years, but they are now eating into reserve funds. Per capita is currently \$34 per member. After reviewing the budget, which shows some allotted funds that won't be used this year due to COVID, the Session voted a 10% increase, or \$3.40 per person. This would amount to approximately an additional \$459.00 (135 members times \$3.40).
- Budget – appears to be on target. Expenses are down, probably due to less activity in the church due to COVID.

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

- General fund balance \$97,572. Memorial fund balance \$46,853. Capital Improvement \$27,077. Farm account balance \$61,705. Farm trust balance \$9,429.
- Pledges are right on target, and offering receipts are already at the annual projected level.
- Received the July rent for the Klockenga and Sahs farm leases.
- The Treasurer wrote checks 8/4/20 totaling \$14,000 to the general fund and \$3,000 to Union Cemetery.
- The Treasurer will be asked to attend the September meeting.

Motion was made to accept all reports.

**New Matters –**

Considerable discussion ensued about whether to resume in-person services or continue with online services only. Since the last Session meeting, there has been a significant increase in COVID-19 cases in Logan County. Some members have stated their preference to resume in-house services, particularly now that other area churches have resumed in-person church services. However, the majority of our members have said they will not attend in-house services until the state reaches Phase 5. The Session discussed outdoor services and where they could be held; i.e. parking lot with members staying in cars, Creekside Pavillion or Kickapoo Park. They also discussed the possibility of holding two services each Sunday, online at 10 a.m. and in-person at 11:15 a.m. or 11:30 a.m.

The session concluded and voted that online worship (Facebook or Zoom) will continue at 10 a.m. Starting Sept. 13, Adam will offer an in-person service in the Sanctuary at 11:15 a.m. or at 11:30 a.m. but there will be no music, as Chet has other obligations immediately after worship.

Members may come into the Sanctuary, bring their own bulletins and must wear a mask. Seating will be allowed in designated spots only. Temperatures will be taken. Communion will remain the first Sunday of the month, with only online services on those dates.

The Worship Committee will meet this week and discuss a day off for Adam and an outdoor service in the Fall.

Due to time, The Session will discuss First Presbyterian Church becoming a Matthew 25 church at the next meeting.

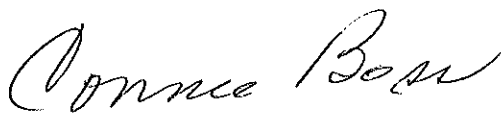
The next Session meeting will be September 8. It will be a hybrid meeting, with Adam at the church along with those who prefer to meet at the church and others who may join by Zoom.

The meeting adjourned at 7:44 p.m. followed with a closing prayer by Cheri Aper.

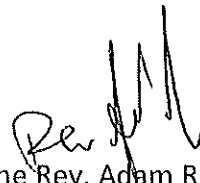
**Motions approved:**

- Approved Session minutes of July 14, 2020.
- Approved to increase the Per Capita by 10% , from \$34 per member to \$37.40
- Approved all Committee Reports.
- Approved the Treasurer's Report.
- Approved to continue the 10 a.m. online service, but beginning Sept 13<sup>th</sup> will provide in-person services at 11:15 a.m. however, no music will be provided and strict requirements will be in place.
- Approved Communion will remain the 1<sup>st</sup> Sunday of each month, with no in-person services at the church on those dates.

Respectfully submitted,



Connie Boss, Clerk of Session



The Rev. Adam R. Quine, Pastor