

# First Presbyterian Church of DuPage

## Session Minutes for July 20, 2023

Meeting called to order at 6:40 pm.

**In attendance:** Kelly Jean Norris (Moderator), Ruth Nauta (Clerk), Sampson Akotuah, Roy Altonen, Walt Cowan, Bob Buegel, Jerry DeYoung, Jim Nauta, Patt Pilgrim.

**Absent:** Don Crebo

Observers: Mike Allen, Joellen Zielazinski

Meeting opened with K.J. Norris explaining that the Agenda tonight would be slightly different. Wants to verify if our priorities are the same as when we started in February.

Motion made by Roy Altonen to accept agenda and seconded by Jerry DeYoung and approved by all.

K.J. Norris gives prayer and devotions.

Started with reading a paragraph directly from *The Book of Order* and asking 3 questions.

- Who are we?
  - Discussed our mission statement that we are a diverse Christian community who lives by Faith, is sustained by Hope, and shines the light of God's Love into the world. This was adopted by Presbyterian nominating committee in 2019 while looking for a pastor. All agreed that this remains unchanged.
  - Discussed possibly wearing name tags to assist new attendees to learn the members.
  - We need have a program in place to draw in youth.
- What are we called to do/be?
  - Accomplish the above through Inter-Generational, Inter-Cultural, Community Ministry and Worship.
    - Church is not meeting goal of Inter- Cultural Ministry. Suggested incorporating cultural music and talking with Ghana church about participating in service quarterly.
- How do we get there?
  - Stewardship committee needs to make main focus to be financially healthy. Motion made by Patt Pilgrim for Roy Altonen to be chairman of committee. 2<sup>nd</sup> by Bob Buegel and approved by all.
  - Inter-generational culture ministry to work with children. Motion made by Roy Altonen for Patt Pilgrim and Sampson Akotuah to co-chair ministry. Seconded by Walt Cowan. Motion passed.
  - Suggested need for more advertising of church events to public. Introducing self to people coming in for worship and learning each other's name.

### **Clerk's Report (Elder Ruth Nauta)**

- June minutes approved.
- Communion: 46 in person served. No pastoral visits with communion.
- Volunteer to set up and clean up for communion in August is Jim Nauta and Ruth Nauta.
  - **Need to get Welch's grape juice.**
  - Please remember to fill out the sheet and get it to clerk for the minutes each month.
- No funerals, baptisms or weddings.
- Motion made by Patt Pilgrim to for a 2-month trial of passing plates for communion. Roy Altonen seconded motion. Passed by vote of 5 out of 9 present.
- Training for communion will be next week at 9 am. before service and will be open to Elders, Deacons and interested members of congregation.

### **Financial (Elder Jerry DeYoung)**

- Weekly giving is above what was projected.
- Continue to have higher than budgeted for utilities costs.
- 190th produced profit of approximately \$3,000. The revenue and expenses break down from 190<sup>th</sup> Celebration is on attached form.
- Financial report accepted by all.

### **Pastor's Report: (K.J. Norris Pastor)**

- Has open door policy for questions, concerns or feedback.
- Still to be determined time for Bible study.
- Continuing to connect with new community partners-- non-profits.
- Requesting time off: Sunday, Sept. 17 and November 5 (and the week prior to each). Accepted by all.

### **Community Partners Updates and Votes:**

- Allegro decided to no longer share space here.
- Motion made by Sampson Akotuah to give floor to Mike Allen for 10 minutes to present his ideas. Seconded by Roy Altonen. Passed by all. Mike Allen respectfully declined due to full agenda tonight but would like to come in August to present his ideas. All agreed.
- Beatrice Manchester (Sole Proprietary - This was approved by Blackhawk)
  - She will offer financial classes for couples on the 4<sup>th</sup> Tuesday of every month through fall "Marriage and Money". Classes to be held August 22, Sept. 26 and Oct. 24<sup>th</sup>. She has own liability insurance and these are not church sponsored. If successful, classes will be continued. Jim Nauta motioned if half of Fellowship Hall is available at \$50/hour for continuing classes. Seconded by Walt Cowan. Motion approved.
- Boy Scout Proposal by Andrew Courtney to build a w/c ramp in the fellowship hall to access the stage area.
  - Video presented of his plans.
  - Needs non-profit organization to sponsor.

- Motion to accept proposal provisionally by Patt Pilgrim seconded by Bob Buegel. Accepted by all.
- Roy Altonen will check area on Monday and see if space and projected rails are aesthetic.
- Grace and Gratitude Counseling Conference “Women’s Mental Health & the Church” will be on Friday, Sept. 8, 2023 from 7 pm to 8:45 pm.
  - Child care will be provided by 168 Church Men.
  - Pastor from 168 and licensed counselor met with K.J. Norris and Patt Pilgrim to discuss space and hospitality and 3-way partnership.
  - Motion to approve made by Sampson Akotuah and seconded by Roy Altonen. Approved by all.
- Blackhawk Presbytery is sponsoring a Presbyterian Peacemaker in the week of Sept. 15-22.
  - Will be no cost to church and will be about Indonesia on Sept. 20.
  - Motion made by Walt Cowan to accept to host program and seconded by Roy Altonen. Approved by all.

**Future Ideas (from the 190<sup>th</sup> Committee and Mike Allen):**

- Use left over hot dogs on August 26<sup>th</sup> for meal and bonfire. All agreed.
- To possibly start a Kids Program on the 1<sup>st</sup> Friday of each month. Starting on Nov. 3 and Dec. 1st.
  - Need 3 people who are certified to work with kids. Motion to approve made by Jerry DeYoung and seconded by Patt Pilgrim. Approved by all.
- Introduced Advent series with soup for dinner, worship and study Wed (Nov. 29- Dec.20) Love, Joy, Peace and Hope series.
  - Suggested leaders of program would be Mike Allen and Bob Contreras if agreeable.
  - Motioned to accept this program made by Walt Cowan and seconded by Jim Nauta. Approved by all.
- Suggested to see if interest in joint services with Church of Ghana, quarterly on 5<sup>th</sup> Sundays.
  - Motion made by Walt Cowan to approach the Church of Ghana of interest and possibly when to start. Seconded by Roy Altonen. Approved by all.
- Yearly Fundraiser and community festival.
  - Agreed to table this topic until next meeting.

Closing prayer given by Bob Buegel.

Next meeting: Thursday, August 10 at 6:30pm. Please have agenda items & minutes to Pastor K.J. By Tuesday, Aug 8<sup>th</sup>.

Minutes written by Ruth Nauta (Clerk).

**August meeting canceled. Next meeting Sept 7<sup>th</sup> at 6:30pm.**