

Stated Session Meeting

North Decatur Presbyterian Church

April 22, 2017

The Session of NDPC met for a stated meeting on **Saturday, April 22, 2017, at approximately 9:00 a.m.** in the Church Parlor.

Elders present: Charles Bonner, Ginny Bowen, Genia Cayce, Heidi Gleason, Annie Godfrey, Mike Johnson, Pam Joyce, David Markham, Martha Osborne, Mary Nevil, Marion Reeves, Bryden Sandifer, Martha Shepherd, Carol Tveit, Bob Way, Holly Williams

Elders excused: Sallie Owens, Kathryn Sandifer

Elders absent: Kent Haythorn

Pastors and Staff present: Co-pastors David Lewicki and Beth Waltemath, Amanda Osenga, Mary Anona Stoops

Guests: Cassandra Morrow (Congregational Consultant), Clark Hair, Penny Cannon

The meeting was called to order in the Church Parlor by the moderator, Rev. Beth Waltemath; a quorum was declared present and the agenda adopted as submitted.

Devotional: Mary Nevil led the Session in an opening devotional and prayer

Approval of February Session Minutes: Minutes from the prior March Session meeting were approved unanimously.

Communications: Mike Johnson read an anonymous note addressed to the Session which read: "Great job of providing new and meaningful ways to worship through young adults service to acting out Bible stories. Keeps the message fresh; shows use of the talents of our faith community. "A" for awesome!"

Mike also read excerpts from a letter received from **Le Leche League Atlanta-Emory**. The mission of Le Leche, which uses the NDPC facilities for their local meetings, is to help mothers worldwide to breastfeed through mother-to-mother support, encouragement, information and education. They held 12 monthly meetings at NDPC with at least 8 mothers and 4 infants in average attendance. The letter thanked NDPC for our hospitality and providing "care, education, and love for the mothers, babies, and families of this community."

Martha Shepherd also thanked all those who contributed to a successful Easter week. Martha Osborne also thanked Martha Shepherd and Mary Nevil specifically for their efforts, noting that approximately 190 members attended the Maundy Thursday Parish meetings.

Congregational Care Calls: Mike Johnson began a discussion of the recently completed congregational care calls noting that for those contacted the feedback was overwhelmingly positive. Members appreciated the outreach and care demonstrated by taking time to call. He also mention some feedback suggesting that involvement and support of Church activities can become overwhelming at times. This led to a broader discussion around topics such as when is

the best time to call, accuracy of the contact information database, and ability to contact people by phone in today's society. All in all, the consensus was this remains an important outreach and caring tool.

Long-range Strategic Plan Survey Results: The majority of the Session meeting was spent with our special guest, **Cassandra Morrow**, a congregational consultant with the Greater Presbytery of Atlanta, who presented the results of the congregational survey. Both participation levels and results from the survey were very positive. There was a lengthy discussion of the survey, how to interpret specific aspects of the results, and concluding with agreement on the importance of communicating and thanking the congregation for this important feedback. Subsequent to the meeting, on April 28, a communication was sent to the congregation that expressed appreciation for participation in the survey, provided an executive summary of the survey results and discussed next steps.

Greater Presbytery of Atlanta Meeting Volunteers: Ginny Bowen, Heidi Gleason, and Martha Osborne volunteered to represent NDPC at the next Greater Presbytery of Atlanta meeting scheduled for May 9, from 4-8:00 at the Korean Community Presbyterian Church.

Election of Clerk Pro Temp for May 21 Stated Session Meeting: Session clerk Mike Johnson will be unable to attend the May Stated Session meeting; in the interim Kathryn Sandifer volunteered to serve in a pro temp capacity. **A motion was made to authorize Kathryn Sandifer to serve as clerk pro temp for the May 21 Stated Session meeting; the motion was approved unanimously.**

Other Business: Ginny Bowen mentioned that on May 7th there will be a single Church-wide Sunday School class featuring speaker Susan Hylan, who is an Associate Professor of New Testament at the Candler School of Theology. **Amanda Osenga** also reminded the Session that the 2017 confirmands examination will occur on **May 6 from 3-5:00 at North Decatur Methodist Church**; this is an important event for the confirmands and a "must attend" if possible for Session members.

Upcoming Meetings:

Stated Session Meeting, Sunday May 21, 2017, 12:30 p.m. in the Church Parlor

After a closing prayer from Rev. Beth Waltemath, the meeting was adjourned at approximately 11:45.

Respectfully submitted,

Michael Johnson, Clerk of Session