

## **Stated Session Meeting**

### **North Decatur Presbyterian Church**

**January 21, 2018**

The Session of NDPC met for a stated meeting on **Sunday, January 21, 2018, at approximately 12:45 p.m.** in the Church Parlor.

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

Elders excused: Ginny Bowen, Bob Way

Elders absent: None

Pastors and Staff present: Co-pastors David Lewicki and Beth Waltemath, Clint Miller, Amanda Osenga

Elders-elect for Class of 2020 present: Wendy Cromwell, Jarvis Ellis, Nancy Gathany, Janet Jasper, Gabriel Ramirez, Thom Schreck

Guests: None

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

**Devotional:** Mike Johnson led the Session in an opening devotional and prayer.

**Approval of December Session Minutes:** Minutes from the prior December Session meeting were approved unanimously, with no changes.

**Examination of the Elder Class of 2020:** The following elders provided their faith statements and were examined and approved by the Session.

- Wendy Cromwell
- Jarvis Ellis
- Nancy Gathany
- Ellen Herbert (Ellen was unable to attend but her faith statement was read on her behalf by Rev. Beth Waltemath)
- Janet Jasper
- Gabriel Ramirez
- Thom Schreck
- Ryan Cass (youth elder serving a one year term)

**Recognition of the outgoing class of 2018:** Revs. Beth Waltemath and David Lewicki thanked and recognized the following outgoing class of elders with a letter read out loud by Rev. Lewicki highlighting accomplishments during their tenure.

- Genia Cayce
- Heidi Gleason
- Annie Godfrey
- Martha Osborne
- Mary Nevil
- Martha Shepherd
- Bryden Sandifer (youth elder)

**2018 Session Sign-up Sheets for Devotion and Lunch:** Mike Johnson distributed sign-up sheets for volunteers to deliver the devotional at upcoming Session meetings and to provide lunch. Similarly, Martha Shepherd distributed a communion sign-up sheet.

**2018 Annual Budget / Co-Pastor's Terms of Call:** Sallie Owen led the 2018 budget discussion where she opened by thanking Rick Neale and Jack Kittle for their leadership with regard to Stewardship. Sallie then discussed highlights of the proposed budget indicating that committee budgets are largely unchanged from the prior year and that the proposed budget includes increased medical expenses for certain staff, increased hours for the pastors (essentially absorbing the full year's impact from the increased hours that were previously approved for the second half of 2017), and a 2 percent staff raise beginning on February 1, 2018 (this latter change will be reflected in an update to the Personnel Manual as well). Items of note that were not in the proposed budget include a staff retreat, Session retreat, a Presbytery operational support request, and a few minor committee increase requests. After discussion, the **Session unanimously approved the 2018 budget as presented.**

The discussion then turned to changes to the co-pastors terms of call led by Annie Godfrey. The only changes proposed being the salary and benefit changes already discussed with the budget. The Session was offered the opportunity to discuss the terms of call in executive session without the co-pastors present; since no Session members felt this was necessary, **the terms of call as presented were passed unanimously by the Session.**

**Elder Nominating Committee Election for 2018:** The elder nominating committee is comprised of three current members of Session and three members from the congregation not currently serving on Session, with a fourth member comprising the previous nominating committee chair in an ex-officio role. Rev. Beth Waltemath asked for three Session volunteers to serve on the nominating committee for 2018 to be presented and elected at the Congregational Meeting on January 28, 2018. **Mike Johnson, Kathryn Sandifer, and Carol Tveit volunteered to serve as the Session members on the nominating committee and Heidi Gleason volunteered to serve as a non-Session member.**

**Election of Treasurer and Clerk of Session:** A motion was made, seconded and the Session then unanimously approved the following:

- Cathy Fincher to serve as treasurer of NDPC for a one-year term.
- Mike Johnson to serve as Clerk of Session of NDPC for a one-year term.

**Approval of Upcoming Baptisms:** As requested by Rev. Beth Waltemath, the Session unanimously approved the upcoming baptism of Rowan Dunn.

**Preaching Approvals for 2018:** Martha Shepherd handed out a list of ordained clergy and potential guest ministers to preach at NDPC in 2018 (attached). A motion was made to approve the list, **the motion was seconded and approved unanimously by the Session.**

#### **Council and Committee Updates / Action Items:**

- *Planning Committee* - Now that the strategic plan has been officially approved by the Session, David Markham indicated that his committee will reach out to other committees to support a discussion of the strategic plan and the potential implications and ramifications. David also discussed the upcoming potluck dinner and asked Session members to attend and support the strategic plan discussion at that time.
- *Ministry Support* - Kathryn Sandifer reminded the Session that committee goals and strategies for 2018 will be discussed at the February Session meeting. She also passed out a guide for structuring planning discussions and suggested that committees consider including goals in their annual manuals. Kathryn also solicited expressions of interest in a possible Session retreat later in the year as an opportunity to enhance fellowship, and she reminded the Session of the fellowship event at Carol Tveit's house at 5:30 on February 11th. Finally, Kathryn mentioned that a list of new potential volunteers from the Time and Talent sheets will be distributed to committee chairs.
- *Children, Youth, and Families* - Marion Reeves discussed the revised child care procedures and walked the Session through the key changes to help ensure a smooth and user-friendly implementation process. Specifically day care will be routinely provided on the first and third Sunday of each month to encourage and support committee meetings on the first Sunday and Session meetings on the third Sunday, otherwise requests should be made at least three days in advance using the new email address. Marion acknowledge that some training of the congregation will be necessary. Also, there was some question about the \$20 per hour child care rate, which seems high. This was addressed by Amanda Osenga - the rate is needed to compensate for the high volume of children and to make it worthwhile for the providers since sometimes care is only needed for one or two hours.
- *Global Missions, Peace and Justice, and Community Ministries* - Jointly, these three committees requested Session approval for a one-time start-up donation to the Memorial

Drive Ministries. Specifically they asked for approval to donate \$6,000 with funds drawn from the unallocated portion of the Memorial Fund; currently there is \$57,000 in this fund and proceeds are rarely used. The three committees are also committing to support the Memorial Drive Ministries with \$1,000 pledges per year from each committee (but this comes from each committee's budget and does not require Session approval). **Session unanimously approved the \$6,000 request.**

#### **Staff Reports:**

- *Co-Pastors Report* - Rev. Beth Waltemath reminded committee chairs that they need to submit their annual reports and also thanked them for their hard work, dedication, and significant contributions during the year. She also mentioned that Rev. David Lewicki will be joining the board of the Decatur Housing Authority.
- *Music Ministries* - Clint Miller mentioned that the children's choir rehearsal time, which typically ends at 7:30, has been extended to 8:00 for some children as an accommodation to certain families.
- *Children, Youth and Families* - Amanda Osenga provided several reminders; specifically she mentioned the upcoming Souper Bowl of Caring on Super Bowl Sunday, and the youth auction on February 11, 2018. Amanda also mentioned that the OWL program began with a lovely retreat that was a positive and good relationship building exercise.

**Presbytery of Greater Atlanta Meeting:** Kathryn Sandifer attended the most recent Presbytery of Greater Atlanta meeting. Kathryn indicated that the Presbytery consists of 122 worshipping communities. The purpose of this meeting was to elect a new executive presbyter; Aisha Brooks-Lytle was elected by a vote in favor of 104-2. Kathryn mentioned that Aisha is an African-American woman who has been a featured speaker at Montreat, N.C.; she is highly energetic and brings a great deal of excitement and enthusiasm to the position.

**Presbytery of Greater Atlanta Meeting Volunteers:** The next Presbytery of Greater Atlanta meeting is scheduled for February 10, 2018 at New Life Presbyterian Church in College Park. Ellen Herbert had previously volunteered to attend this meeting and Holly Williams and Nancy Gathany also volunteered to attend as well.

#### **Upcoming Meetings:**

The next Stated Session Meeting will be held on **Sunday, February 18, 2018, at 12:30 p.m. in the Parlor.**

After a closing prayer led by moderator Rev. Beth Waltemath, the meeting was adjourned at approximately 2:45 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

*Michael Johnson*, Clerk of Session