

Stated Session Meeting

North Decatur Presbyterian Church

May 20, 2018

The Session of NDPC met for a stated meeting on **Sunday, May 20, 2018, at approximately 2:45 p.m.** in the Church Parlor.

Elders present: Charles Bonner, Ginny Bowen, Wendy Cromwell, Jarvis Ellis, Nancy Gathany, Janet Jasper, Mike Johnson, Pam Joyce, Sallie Owens, Gabriel Ramirez, Kathryn Sandifer, Thom Schreck, Holly Williams

Elders excused: Ellen Herbert, David Markham, Marion Reeves, Carol Tveit

Elders absent: Ryan Cass, Bob Way

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

Guests: Bobbie Wrenn Banks

The meeting was called to order in the Parlor by Rev. David Lewicki, who served as the moderator until such time as Rev. Beth Waltemath subsequently joined the meeting; a quorum was declared present by the Clerk and the agenda adopted subject to one modification - deferral of the new member examination until the June Stated Session meeting.

Devotional: Pam Joyce led the Session in an impactful opening devotional and prayer focused on partnership meditation.

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

Music Ministry Sabbatical Plan: As Personnel Committee chair, Wendy Cromwell led a discussion of the sabbatical plan for music ministries. A copy of the written plan was provided to the Session. In sum, the music ministries program will be covered by one individual, Jerrell Melton, during Clint Miller's summer sabbatical period from June 3 through September 2. Jerrell is a recent graduate from Morehouse and he is excited for this opportunity. In general, the Session was supportive of having one individual serve in this capacity for continuity rather than having rotating musicians. In response to questions, Rev. Lewicki indicated that, while Jerrell will have a list of favorite church hymns provided by Clint, he will be supported by the interim pastors in the selection of music for worship services. **A motion was submitted by Wendy for approval of the music ministries sabbatical plan as submitted by Clint, and the motion was approved unanimously by the Session.**

Council and Committee Updates / Action Items:

- *Leader Support and Engagement* - Kathryn Sandifer offered several recommendations related to member engagement and proposed Time and Talent process revisions. First, Kathryn recommended that we review the list of inactive Elders to determine opportunities to re-engage them in the committee work of the church. Second, and as an example, Kathryn suggested nominating an inactive Elder to serve as a permanent NDPC delegate to the Presbytery of Greater Atlanta; NDPC has three delegate seats, all of which are currently filled on a voluntary basis by Session members - under the proposal, one would be a permanent (possibly one year) role for an Elder while the remaining two seats would continue to be filled by Session volunteers. This suggestion was well received and will be discussed in more detail at the June 10 Session meeting.

Kathryn also discussed proposed changes to the Time and Talent process. Specifically, she reminded everyone to submit any final revisions to the form to her by the end of the month. She also proposed linking distribution of the form to the congregation with the stewardship process in October. She then turned the discussion to a proposal to more closely integrate Time and Talent volunteer solicitation with the Minute for Missions, change for change, and other communications, publications processes, etc. To do this, Kathryn asked committee chairs to list the time of year by quarter when it made the most sense for them to advertise and solicit volunteers. The Education solicitation process was discussed as a positive example. After some clarification discussion, it was generally agreed that the process made sense as a one year pilot program. Rev. Lewicki also mentioned that a new church database system is planned for 2018 that may impact the process at later date. After further discussion, the Session was in agreement to update the Time and Talent forms, request coordinated committee time on the calendar during their respective appropriate season, and assign calendar time blocks to committees along with available communication tools.

- *Worship Committee* - Janet Jasper requested Session approval for the summer worship schedule change beginning on May 27th and ending on September 9th. With this change, the 8:30 and 11:00 worship services are combined for one worship service during this period beginning at 10:00; with this schedule in place through September 9th when we revert back to the 8:30 and 11:00 worship program. Janet also sought retroactive approval for cancelling the 8:30 worship service on May 20th (a majority of Session members had previously consented to this change via electronic expressions of support). **The worship schedule changes as proposed were approved unanimously.**
- *Finance Committee* - A new check request form was distributed by Sallie Owens. The biggest change on the form is the addition of an "In Kind Donation for Service" reimbursement section. Sallie also stressed the importance of having vendors, anyone who is being hired for a service, to complete a W-9 form. She offered that Meghan Vessel in the church office is well versed on the process and can help if anyone has questions.

Presbytery of Greater Atlanta meeting report: Pam Joyce and Kathryn Sandyfer attended the May 1st Presbytery meeting at Smyrna Presbyterian Church. They reported that two votes were taken related to the need for a statement on gun violence as well as addressing emerging mission funding and health issues in Madagascar. They also indicated there was an informational discussion of the role of Validated Ministers, essentially, ordained service-oriented ministers who do not typically preach. Overall, it was an informative and productive meeting.

Looking Ahead to the June 10 Session Meeting: Mike Johnson provided several reminders regarding tasks to be completed in advance of the June 10 Session meeting. First, Congregational care calls need to be completed; the meeting will include a discussion of feedback and other issues generated from these calls. Second, Council meetings need to occur in advance since each council is expected to report out on these discussions including issues, concerns, overlaps and synergies relative to the strategic plan. Rev. Lewicki emphasized the importance of consolidating work wherever it makes sense to do so.

Staff Reports:

- *Children, Youth and Families* - Amanda Osenga expressed her thanks and gratitude to the NDPC community during this time of transition for her. Between now and her departure at the end of June, her schedule will be filled with a clergy cohort meeting in San Diego, and youth and high school summer trips. She is also working on an operating manual and transition plan.
- *Co-Pastors Report* - The co-pastors are both preparing their transition into the sabbatical period and expressed gratitude for Session support in the process. They are also working with Ministry Architects on their report, which was presented following the Session meeting. They also encouraged members to complete the Google form that lists committee priorities so that the interim pastors are aware of what everyone is working on and can assist if necessary.

Upcoming Meetings:

The next Stated Session Meeting will be held on **Sunday, June 10, 2018, at 11:30 in the Parlor.**

After a closing prayer led by moderator Rev. Beth Waltemath, the meeting was adjourned at approximately 3:50 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Michael Johnson, Clerk of Session