

Stated Session Meeting

North Decatur Presbyterian Church

September 16, 2018

The Session of NDPC met for a stated meeting on **Sunday, September 16, 2018, at approximately 12:30 p.m.** in the Church Parlor.

Elders present: Ginny Bowen, Ryan Cass, Wendy Cromwell, Nancy Gathany, Ellen Herbert, Janet Jasper, Mike Johnson, Gabriel Ramirez, Marion Reeves, Kathryn Sandifer, Thom Schreck, Holly Williams

Elders excused: Charles Bonner, Jarvis Ellis, Pam Joyce, David Markham, Sallie Owens, Carol Tveit

Elders absent: Bob Way

Pastors and Staff present: Rev. David Lewicki, Rev. Beth Waltemath, Clint Miller

Guests: Heidi Gleason, Alexandra Mauney, Rick Neale, Astrid M. Eckert, Alice and John Bonner, Karen and Zac Fletcher

The meeting was called to order in the Parlor by the moderator, Rev. Beth Waltemath; a quorum was declared present by the Clerk and the agenda adopted as submitted subject to slight change of ordering.

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

Examination of New Members: The prospective new members, Astrid M. Eckert, Alice and John Bonner, and Karen and Zac Fletcher, each introduced themselves and discussed their respective journeys. This was followed by questions and comments from the Session, after which a **motion was made, seconded and the Session voted by unanimous consent to accept each as new members** and welcome them to the NDPC congregation. Astrid will be joining by reaffirmation of faith, while the others are joining by transfer.

Devotional and Prayer: Gabriel Ramirez led the Session in the opening devotional and prayer. At this time, Rev. Beth Waltemath also introduced NDPC's most recent intern, Alexandra Mauney, who was a guest at the meeting.

Elder Nominating Committee Update: Heidi Gleason, chair of the Elder Nominating Committee, provided an update on the progress for identifying nominations for the next Elder class and next steps. Volunteers for four of the six adult Elder positions have been received, and two youth, who will support and work with each other to fill the one youth slot, have been identified. Progress has been made relative to the remaining positions, with a targeted Congregational meeting on October 21st. Rev. Beth Waltemath also offered that any existing Elder who wanted to consider switching their committee assignment could discuss that possibility with her.

Stewardship Campaign Update & Session Request: Again this year, Rick Neale is chair of the stewardship campaign. Rick indicated that the theme for this year's campaign is: "*For Such a Time as This*", which is taken from the Book of Esther. Rick is excited about the themes' emphasis on NDPC as providing an opportunity for making a meaningful and transformative Impact. Rick has an excellent team, and the campaign will kickoff on September 30th concluding on October 28th, the church's birthday!

Rick also provided a handout that markets the campaign as a *Narrative Budget Proposal*. The idea is to provide a short and sweet narrative of the impact the various ministries of the church have along with supporting financial information. There was a lively discussion of the proposal including allocation of personnel expenses to ministries, the amount of budget detail to present, etc. All agreed that the narrative should be kept simple, yet is very important for success. **Rick requested comments on the narrative by a Wednesday, September 19.**

Rick also requested that Session submit an early pledge to Jack Kittle, with the goal of being able to announce to the Congregation that Session has already pledged a certain amount. **Rick requested that Session pledges be sent to Jack Kittle by this coming Sunday.**

Council and Committee Updates / Action Items:

- *CYF Committee* - Marion Reeves provided an overview of curriculum planned this year for all of the children and youth programs, the specifics of which are including in her monthly report. **A motion was made, seconded and approved unanimously to adopt the proposed curriculum.**
- *Engagement Committee* - Ellen Herbert passed out a list of church members who have not attended or otherwise have not been in contact with in some time. Engagement and Worship Committee plans to contact them as possible and asked for any thoughts or input on any of the individuals.
- *Personnel Committee* - Wendy Cromwell provided an update on the Personnel Committee work following a recent committee meeting. Specifically Wendy mentioned that she recently redistributed performance feedback forms for staff, which included an updated rating scale for core competencies, and **requested Session to complete the staff performance feedback by September 23rd, if possible.**

- *Worship Committee* - Janet Jasper requested Session approval to request the traditional donations for poinsettias and greenery during the Christmas session. **The motion was offered, seconded and adopted unanimously by the Session.**
- *Property Committee* - With Jarvis Ellis excused, Rev David Lewicki provided an update on the sanctuary/chancel lighting situation that had been previously discussed. A new bid for \$10,000 has been received (which does not include the electrician and related electric work). There was some discussion of the cost, with David commenting that there are 4 lights which cost approximately \$1,000 each, and that the install would come with a well located control panel. **A motion was made to approve up to \$12,000 from the property budget, either maintenance or reserves, for the lighting project. The motion was seconded and approved by unanimous consent.**

Staff and Co-Pastors Report: Rev. Beth Waltemath welcomed Clint Miller back from sabbatical and indicated that staff have been “drinking from a firehouse” since returning from their respective sabbaticals. Lots of time has been spent on pastoral care calls and reconnecting with the congregation, including to help connect with the committees. Rev. David Lewicki mentioned that several affordable housing events have been hosted at NDPC, and there continues to be a strong need. Clint also commented that choirs are meeting again and that the children’s choir first meeting had a strong increase in attendance.

Calendar “Go Round” Discussion: Session discussed the pros and cons, including costs and benefits, for the printed calendar in the hallway as well as possible technical solutions to some of the electronic calendaring processes. Rev. Beth Waltemath indicated that, while there was significant initial time spent developing the hallway printed calendar, the process has improved. There was also some discussion about what needed to go on the calendar, and the fact that external events seem to be prominent. Several corrections to the Session Events Calendar were also offered to the Clerk.

Upcoming Meetings:

The next Stated Session Meeting will be held on **Sunday, October 21, 2018, at 12:30 in the Parlor.**

After a closing prayer led by moderator Rev. Beth Waltemath, the meeting was adjourned at approximately 2:00 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Michael Johnson, Clerk of Session