

Stated Session Meeting

North Decatur Presbyterian Church

November 18, 2018

The Session of NDPC met for a stated meeting on Sunday, November 18, 2018 at 12:30 in the Church Parlor.

Elders present were Pam Joyce, Sallie Owens Kathryn Sandifer, Charles Bonner, Marion Reeves, Carol Tveit, Holly Williams, Wendy Cromwell, Jarvis Ellis, Nancy Gathany, Ellen Herbert, Janet Jasper and Tom Shreck.

Elders excused were: Mike Johnson, Ginny Bowen and David Markham.

Elders absent were: Bob Way, Ryan Cass and Gabriel Ramirez.

The **meeting was called to order** by moderator Rick Neale in the absence of the co-pastors, a **quorum** was declared present and the **agenda was adopted**, although the order was revised.

The **October minutes** were approved.

Carol Tveit gave an **opening devotional** focused on significant loss and remembrance as we experienced in the “Tree of Life” synagogue and in life: “who will remember the names of those who were lost?”

Session approved the reinstatement of Cynthia Warner to the **membership rolls**. In spite of Cynthia’s moving away some time ago, she still participates in the life of this church on occasion and would like to be included in the membership rolls.

In light of the time and **Clint Miller’s** impending choir rehearsal, his description of his sabbatical was moved up to an earlier spot in the agenda. Clint gave an interesting account of his time away describing particularly his week participating with the Peachtree Road United Methodist Church choir (Charlotte) singing services in Westminster Abbey as well as his learning about tuning organs--including the NDPC organ!

In addition, the Session approved Clint’s request to take an offering during the Xmas concert of the NDPC choir and the Atlanta Philharmonic Orchestra. Monies collected will be designated for use by our Community Ministries committee and the APO on a 50-50 split, as in years past.

A long-term personnel plan was presented by Wendy Cromwell and discussed at length. At Wendy’s suggestion, Session decided to delay final approval until a later meeting.

Wendy also reported on the hiring of Nancy Weitnauer for a 19-hour position as operations coordinator and the need for volunteers to help staff the office.

New e-mail addresses designated as the office staff is changing are: Office @ NDPC, Calendar@ndpc, Publication@ndpc.

The Session Calendar for the next two months was reviewed briefly with Kathryn Sandifer calling special attention to the ordination and Installation of new elders on January 27, 2019 and the possibility of a luncheon to recognize new and out-going elders.

A” Longest Night” service on December 16 also was added to the calendar.

As part of the Council and Committee updates,

- Janet Jasper of the **Worship committee** submitted dates for communion in 2019 and received approval;
- **Leader Support** chair, Kathryn Sandifer, provided an update on the up-coming “Gathering of Elders” on December 2nd for which c. 50 elders have responded positively, and on a recent training session for 8 NDPC elders-elect with plans for another on January 13th. In the earlier event on November 11th, NDPC elders-elect were joined by the new elders-elect from the Emory church and ministers Shelley Latham of Druid Hills Presbyterian Church and Brady Radford from Emory along with Beth Waltemath.
- **Finance** chair Sallie Owens reported that a new check request form is being developed. She will send it out when it is finished; requests should be addressed to accounts@ndpc.org. Or, until the new forms are available, the former procedure will work. She reminded the Session that requests from committees must have two signatures.
- Rick Neale who chaired the **Stewardship Commitment committee**, announced that received pledges now total \$528,990; that this represents 120 pledging units with 48 yet to be heard from. The goal is \$726,000.
- Nancy Gathany, **Community Ministries chair**, requested and received approval of monies for Decatur Community ministry and for a fundraiser on March 16th for scholarships for Shalom students to attend a Montreat Youth Conference during the summer.
Nancy also asked for suggestions of someone to serve as liaison to DEAM since Anne Hendry is stepping down in June. And she reported on excitement during the El Refugio meeting earlier in that week about the increasing success of lawyers in obtaining the release or bonding for detainees. She encouraged people to be aware of the work of the Southern Poverty Law Center as well as other pro bono lawyers and the need for funds to hire other immigration lawyers.
- Marion Reeves and Ellen Herbert reported on their experience of the Presbytery meeting, echoing each other: “It was good!”
- Jarvis Ellis of the Property Committee called the group’s attention to the paint and stucco applied to the façade of the buildings, saying the completion would be delayed until after Thanksgiving because of the rain.

Finally: a reiteration of the clerk’s reminder that annual reports are due early in January in order that they be available for the Congregational meeting on January 27th.

Kathryn Sandifer, substituting for Michael Johnson