

Stated Session Meeting

North Decatur Presbyterian Church

December 16, 2018

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

Elders present: Charles Bonner, Ginny Bowen, Ryan Cass, Wendy Cromwell, Jarvis Ellis, Nancy Gathany, Ellen Herbert, Janet Jasper, Mike Johnson, Pam Joyce, David Markham, Sallie Owens, Gabriel Ramirez, Marion Reeves, Kathryn Sandifer, Thom Schreck, Carol Tveit, Holly Williams

Elders excused: None

Elders absent: Pam Joyce, Bob Way

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

Guests: Allison & Dean Flaishans, Rob Johnson, Mamisoa Rakotomalala

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.

Approval of the November Stated Session Minutes: Minutes from the prior November Stated Session meeting were **approved unanimously**, with one minor edit.

Devotional and Prayer: Jarvis Ellis led the Session in the opening devotional and prayer.

Approval of Upcoming Baptisms: **The Session unanimously approved the upcoming baptisms of Andrea Morgan and John Benjamin Morgan.**

Staffing Plan and Budget Commitment Discussion: Mike Johnson introduced the topic by mentioning that the staffing personnel plan previously discussed contains immediate and aspirational budget implications, the intersection of which still needs to be considered. Revs. Lewicki and Waltemath provided their perspectives and the Session, including chairs of the Personnel and Finance Committees, engaged in a thoughtful discussion. This discussion included an admission of challenges but also a commitment to the current co-pastor model. After this discussion, a motion was made and seconded to approval the personnel staffing plan as previously submitted; **the motion was adopted unanimously by the Session.**

Council and Committee Updates / Action Items:

- *Community Ministries* - Rev. Lewicki introduced Rob Johnson as our guest for this topic, a discussion of a potential partnership with *A Home for Everyone in Decatur* (HED), a group co-founded by Rob. A copy of the specific proposal was handed out by Nancy Gathany, which recommends the use of the Fellowship Hall as a winter freeze warming

center for Decatur homeless. (Attached to the minutes is a copy of the proposal with specific details.) In sum, the proposal would entail the bussing of homeless individuals to NDPC along with other participating churches on evenings with temperatures forecasted to be below 35 degrees. HED would provide the bus service as well as volunteers and security and notify NDPC in advance. If approved, the arrangement can be terminated by NDPC at anytime. After some discussion including the implications for our lease with the Science of Fun and insurance, a motion was made, seconded, and **adopted unanimously to accept the proposal to partner with HED as a warming shelter.**

- *Worship Committee* - **Approvals for Rev. Amantha Barbee to preach on December 30, 2018 and for Rev. Dr. Claudio Carvalhaes to preach on February 10, 2019, were approved unanimously.**
- *Leader Support* - Kathryn Sandifer led a discussion of the benefits of the “Gathering of Elders” meeting held at Carol Tveit’s house. The event included terrific past stories and momentum going forward; subsequent requests for volunteers from this group has been very positive.
- *Community Ministries* - Another topic from Community Ministries led by Nancy Gathany was a request for retroactive approval for the Detainee Legal Fund for El Refugio, which raise over \$2,400 during the Alternative Gift Market. A steering committee has been appointed to direct the spending of these and future funds. **The Session voted unanimously to approve the fund raising event and steering committee direction.**

Staff and Co-Pastors Report: See the committee activity reports for details.

Calendar “Go Round” Discussion: No comments were provided relative to the calendar.

Upcoming Meetings:

The next Stated Session Meeting will be held on **Sunday, January 20, 2018, at 12:30 in the Parlor.**

After a closing prayer led by moderator Rev. David Lewicki, the meeting was adjourned at approximately 2:40 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Michael Johnson, Clerk of Session