

Stated Session Meeting

North Decatur Presbyterian Church

January 20, 2019

The Session of NDPC met for a stated meeting on **Sunday, January 20, 2019, at approximately 12:30 p.m.** in the Church Parlor.

Elders present: Charles Bonner, Ginny Bowen, 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

Elders excused: Holly Williams

Elders absent: Ryan Cass, Bob Way

Pastors and Staff present: Pastor David Lewicki, Clint Miller

Elders-elect for Class of 2021 present: Audra Grace, Jill Jacques, Carol Morgan, Deedee Murphy, David Root, Macon Sandifer, Ike Veal

Elder-elect excused: David Wilkes

Guests: Lynne Hewett, Dean Morley, Marcia Morley

The meeting was called to order in the Parlor by Rev. David Lewicki; 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 and welcome of new members:

- Lynne Hewett: reaffirmation of faith
- Marcia and Dean Morley: transfer from Church of the New Covenant

Examination of the Elder Class of 2021: The following elders provided their faith statements and were examined by the Session.

- Audra Grace
- Jill Jacques
- Carol Morgan
- Deedee Murphy
- David Root

- Macon Sandifer (youth elder serving a one co-year term)
- Ike Veal (youth elder serving a one co-year term)

Recognition of the outgoing class of 2018: Rev. David Lewicki thanked and recognized the following outgoing class of elders with a letter that he read out loud highlighting accomplishments during their tenure in addition to a book gift for each that he presented.

- Ginny Bowen
- Pam Joyce
- David Markham
- Sallie Owens
- Kathryn Sandifer

Approval of Upcoming Baptisms: The Session unanimously approved the upcoming baptism of David Wyatt Harris.

2019 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 coordinate lunch. Previously, Janet Jasper had also distributed a communion sign-up sheet for February.

2019 Annual Budget / Co-Pastor's Terms of Call: Sallie Owen led the 2019 budget discussion where she began by describing the success of the change for change program, which has essentially led to a doubling of the loose change offering. Sallie then mentioned that there was a budget surplus for 2018 primary due to the vacant Children and Youth Director position; while the final amount of the surplus remains to be determined, in February, Wendy Cromwell, chair of the Personnel Committee, will present options for utilization of the surplus for Session consideration. Sallie requested Session approval to close out several "restricted accounts" that had surpassed their useful purpose with aggregated expenses of \$2,197.18; proposed the shortfall funding come from the Memorial Fund. **This motion was approved unanimously by the Session.** Sallie then commented on the increase in pledges for 2019 and the use of that increase in the budget to fund year 1 of the staffing plan and the property reserve among other purposes.

After the budget discussion, Sallie summarized changes to the Co-Pastors terms of call consistent with the recently approved 3 year staffing plan. For example, Rev. Beth Waltemath moved from a 12 month employee to 10 months, 2 weeks were added to Rev. David Lewicki's time off for the purpose of Service to the Church, and medical expenses declined due to a quirk in the Presbytery process unique for this year. After some general discussion including comments designed to facilitate the presentation at the upcoming Congregational meeting, the Session supported the proposed budget and terms of call.

Finally, Sallie discussed a new electronic check request procedure recently approved by the Finance Committee, which was subsequently distributed to the Session. Specifically, Sallie

emphasized the importance of noting approval of the check reimbursement request in the body of the email message. **Session also unanimously approved the request to add JW Balsley as a check signer for NDPC.**

While not directly related to the budget and finance discussion, at this point in the meeting, Wendy Cromwell requested nominations for the CYF Director search committee to be submitted by the end of the week.

Elder Nominating Committee Election for 2019: 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 (Heidi Gleason). Rev. David Lewicki asked for three Session volunteers to serve on the nominating committee for 2019 to be presented and elected at the Congregational Meeting on January 27, 2019. **Mike Johnson, Charles Bonner, and Deedee Murphy volunteered to serve as the Session members on the nominating committee.**

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.

Council and Committee Updates / Action Items:

- *Children, Youth, and Families* - Marion Reeves discussed the annual Souper Bowl fundraiser to be held on February 3, 2019, **which received unanimous approval for the Session, as well as approval for the upcoming Hunger Walk fundraiser.**
- *Leader Support* - Kathryn Sandifer reminded the Session that the Educate and Invite calendar for 2019 has begun, which will be left to the Session and co-pastors David and Beth to implement in 2019. Kathryn also reminded the Session of the new Elder welcome gathering at 10:30 in advance of Worship on January 27th, and encouraged all Elders to attend. Finally, she mentioned that an Elder Gathering is being Planning for February 2 or 3 to be hosted by the Markhams; more details will be coming shortly.
- *Peace and Justice Committee* - Carol Tveit requested approval for a Mental Health Forum to be held at NDPC on February 24th as a brown bag lunch at 12:30; **Session unanimously approved the request for the Mental Health Forum.**

Staff Reports:

- *Co-Pastors Report* - Rev. David Lewicki mentioned that Rev. Beth Waltemath, Mary Anona, and Iyabo are undergoing an Enneagram exercise. In addition, the co-pastors have been working on committee transitions, are delighted by the Stewardship response,

busy working on the strategic housing priority (including a meeting held at NDPC the prior Tuesday), and David recently met with his clergy group in Sante Fe, New Mexico.

- *Music Ministries* - Clint Miller mentioned that the choir program is mapped out for the Spring, preparations are underway for Youth Sunday, that the Balcony Choir will be participating in the Concert of Spirituals on February 24th at St. Philip's AME Church, and the Music Committee is meeting monthly.

Presbytery of Greater Atlanta Meeting Volunteers: Martha Shepherd serves as our permanent attendee; two additional Session attendee volunteers were requested for the upcoming meeting at Trinity Presbyterian Church on February 9th. No additional volunteers were noted at this meeting but volunteers are requested going forward if calendars permit.

Calendar "Go Round" Discussion: No new items were mentioned related to the calendar.

Prior to conclusion of the meeting, a number of ad hoc items were raised. Specifically, Jarvis Ellis mentioned that the room behind the pulpit was recently cleaned and that it is not to serve as a storage room. Also, in response to questions from the Session, Rev. David Lewicki mentioned that NDPC is not quite ready to serve as a freezing night shelter for the homeless as recently authorized by Session, but should be shortly.

Upcoming Meetings:

The next Stated Session Meeting will be held on **Sunday, February 10, 2019, at 12:30 p.m. in the Parlor.**

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

Respectfully submitted,

Michael Johnson, Clerk of Session

