

Stated Session Meeting

North Decatur Presbyterian Church

February 10, 2019

The Session of NDPC met for a stated meeting on **Sunday, February 10, 2019, at approximately 1:00 p.m.** in the Church Parlor immediately following the new REALM application training led by Rick Neale.

Elders present: Wendy Cromwell, Jarvis Ellis, Nancy Gathany, Audra Grace, Jill Jacques, Janet Jasper, Mike Johnson, Carol Morgan, Deedee Murphy, Gabriel Ramirez, Marion Reeves, David Root, Macon Sandifer, Thom Schreck, Carol Tveit, Ike Veal, David Wilkes, Holly Williams

Elders excused: Ellen Herbert

Elders absent: Charles Bonner

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

Guests: None

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

Devotional and Prayer: Jill Jacques led the Session in the opening devotional and prayer.

Elder Statement of Faith: Having missed the prior initial Elder interview meeting, Elder David Wilkes read his inspirational statement of faith for the Session. It was well received and he was thanked for sharing his personal message.

Annual Statistical Report Overview: Mike Johnson distributed a copy of the annual statistical report for the church which is submitted to the denomination, a copy of which is attached. The report includes information regarding membership, average attendance, and breakdowns of membership by race, gender, and age, as well as children and youth Sunday school class attendance distributions and financial information. In general, NDPC has a strong female caucasian orientation. The discussion was informational in nature with no action required.

Council and Committee Updates / Action Items:

- *Personnel Committee* - For the new Session members Wendy Cromwell provided a summary of the previously approved staffing plan, and she offered to send the more

detailed plan as previously approved by Session upon request. Wendy also mentioned that a search committee has been formed for the vacant Children and Youth staff position; the search committee is chaired by Jonathan Ball and includes Corey Dunn, Angela Cass, and Ellen Cochran along with our youth elders, Macon Sandifer and Ike Veal serving as consultants. The job description is expected to be completed shortly.

- *Property Committee* - Jarvis Ellis followed up on a prior conversation related to the exploration of fencing for the HVAC and copper pipe exposure. Specifically Jarvis indicated that the cost was estimated at \$8,000 and the fence, if installed, would not serve as a strong deterrent. Given this information and the hard to access location of the HVAC, a decision has been made to defer the fencing at this time. Jarvis also thanked Holly Williams for coordinating touch up painting in the Fellowship Hall, and he indicated that tile work was needed in the Fellowship Hall as well.
- *Peace & Justice Committee* - Carol Tveit passed around a signup sheet seeking volunteers for committee members to read the names of individuals killed from gun violence on the 3rd Sunday of every month.

Presbytery of Greater Atlanta Meeting Volunteers: Martha Shepherd, our permanent elder representative, Deedee Murphy and Audra Grace attended the recent Presbytery of Greater Atlanta meeting at on Saturday, February 9th. Detailed minutes from the meeting were distributed electronically to the Session in advance for reference. The sermon by Aisha Brooks Lytle focused on Psalm 92, Flourish through Passion, Priesthood, and Purpose. The final act of the meeting was to thank NDPC's own Rick Neale as outgoing moderator and to install Mardee Rightmeyer as the new moderator.

Staff and Co-Pastors Report: Clint Miller indicated that the Balcony Choir will perform at a Spirituals Choir concert on February 24th at 5:00 p.m. The Music Committee also recently met and is focused on drafting a mission statement for the group.

Co-Pastors Waltemath and Lewicki mentioned that the warm up shelter on nights below freezing is running and going well; volunteers are always encouraged. Rev. Lewicki also mentioned that progress is being made on an effort to "re-imagine" and update the church grounds, including the playground. We are collaborating with our tenants, the Hess Academy and Science of Fun as well as the neighborhood community. Diane Wilkes is helping to shepherd the process, which includes the possibility of seeking a revitalization grant.

The Co-Pastors also emphasized our safety and access policy related to the Church property, emphasizing that all visitors should check in at the church office upon entering the property and are encouraged to challenge others who may not have done the same. The campus policy will be recirculated as a reminder.

Finally, the co-pastors mentioned that the upcoming confirmands had a successful retreat the prior weekend. The Session is scheduled to meet with the confirmands on Saturday, May 4th, and they will be received by the congregation on Sunday, May 5th.

Calendar "Go Round" Discussion: Session discussed the upcoming calendar including the upcoming confirmand schedule and the Hunger Walk on April 28th as well as the Haiti Fundraising event on May 19, among other events.

Upcoming Meetings:

The next Stated Session Meeting will be held on **Sunday, March 17, 2019, 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