

Stated Session Meeting

North Decatur Presbyterian Church

March 17, 2019

The Session of NDPC met for a stated meeting on **Sunday, March 17, 2019, at approximately 12:30 p.m.** in the Church Parlor.

Elders present: Wendy Cromwell, Nancy Gathany, Audra Grace, Ellen Herbert, Jill Jacques, Janet Jasper, Mike Johnson, Pam Joyce, Deedee Murphy, Gabriel Ramirez, Marion Reeves, Macon Sandifer, Carol Tveit, Ike Veal, David Wilkes, Holly Williams

Elders excused: Charles Bonner, Jarvis Ellis, Carol Morgan, David Root, Thom Schreck

Elders absent: None

Pastors and Staff present: Co-Pastors David Lewicki & Beth Waltemath, Clint Miller

Guests: Alexandra Mauney, Rick Neale, Bailey Green & Bonna Westcoat, Ashley & Scott Pieper, Ben & Greer Libby Watson

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: Ellen Herbert led the Session in an opening devotional song, "Come and Fill", and prayer.

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

Examination and welcome of new members, all of which were approved unanimously by Session for membership:

- Bailey Green and Bonna Westcoat: transfer from Central Presbyterian
- Ashley and Scott Pieper: transfer from Church of the New Covenant
- Ben and Greer Watson: transfer from Western Presbyterian, Washington DC

Approval of Upcoming Baptisms: The Session unanimously approved the upcoming baptism of Iris Hahn.

Congregational Care Calls: Mike Johnson summarized the purpose of the annual Congregational care calls, which includes validating the official roles of the church but more importantly to offer a connection point from church leadership with all church members. Mike

summarized feedback from the prior year, that included more time and more flexibility in approach to having the conversations as well as a suggestion to organize the calls by Parish. Mike handed out a copy of the Parish rosters as well as a sheet that showed Parishes by membership count, and highlighting each Session member in their respective Parish. The Co-Pastors stressed the importance of the calls and requested that they also include a special question this year related to how the members feel most connected to the church. By capturing this information, it is hoped that it will be informative for Engagement as well as other committees. Since there is not a complete overlap by Session and Parish, several session members agreed to help cover additional Parishes. A summary of the Parishes and Session assignments follows.

East Ponce	Wendy Cromwell, David Root
Tucker	Thom Scheck
Agnes Scott	Charles Bonner
Southeast	Ellen Herbert, Carol Tveit
Medlock	Janet Jasper, Nancy Gathany
South PeachTree Creek	Mike Johnson, Marion Reeves
Oakhurst	Gabriel Ramirez
Decatur	Carol Morgan, Holly Williams
Westside	Jill Jacques, Deedee Murphy
LaVista	Jarvis Ellis, Audra Grace
Northeast	David Wilkes

Hess Lease Update: Marion Reeves led a discussion of the Hess Lease which is up for renewal later at the end of this summer. Specifically, the lease will be renewed at current fair market value that represents a significant increase from \$2000 per month to \$5000 per month, of which the excess proceeds will be used to supplement the property reserve; a liability waiver is also expected to be added to the lease. Marion stated that Hess in many ways has been a perfect tenant, always responsive to feedback and concerns; they also routinely advertise NDPC events such as the Alternative Gift Market. Marion further shared that the Science of Fun lease will also be subject to renewal later this year, but with no expected increase in rent. Similarly, Science of Fun has been an excellent tenant and responsive to our needs by, for example, offering scholarships; they plan to expand their program by including parallel camps with higher grade students this summer. Rev. Waltemath reminded Session that it is our duty to serve as good neighbors by for example cleaning up our space after usage, and she mentioned that having Marion and Rev. Lewicki serve as central contact persons has worked well.

Council and Committee Updates / Action Items:

- *Peace and Justice* - Carol Tveit mentioned that energy for the Gun Memorial had begun to wane, therefore they are shifting to a proposal to send a ribbon with a name of a victim of gun violence along with a letter explaining the memorial and asking civic leaders to be a peacemaker in the process. Letter signers will include the P&J committee, Craftivists, and Co-Pastors. A “memorial to the memorial” will also be established. **Session unanimously approved the proposal.**
- *Global Missions* - Several matters from Global Mission were presented by Deedee Murphy for discussion. First, Deedee requested session approval to endorse an extension of the Haitian EcoVillage Partnership for an additional 3 years. The original goal was to make the village self sustaining after 5 years but, while material progress has been made, additional time is needed to complete the school through the 8th grade, allow for self sustaining fundraising and self sufficiency activities to take root and, while the school has been recognized nationally, the incumbent teacher funds have not been dispersed. In response to a question, Deedee mentioned that the NDPC funding commitment is at \$40,000, with the majority raised through the Flavors of Haiti fundraiser, individual contributions, and \$1500 from Global Missions. Deedee also requested that the Finance Committee continue to manage the funds for the related 501(c)(3) and that 25 percent of funds raised from the One Great Hour of Sharing be allocated to the EcoVillage since the video produced by the Presbytery emphasizes the progress of the school, but no funds have been provided through this program. **Session unanimously approved all off these proposals.**

Staff Reports:

- *Co-Pastors Report* - Rev. Beth Waltemath mentioned that a small group will be gathered to discuss the agenda for the upcoming Session retreat on April 27th. Expected agenda items include the strategic plan and its linkage to Stewardship as well as spiritual gift development. She also mentioned that the Confirmand examination by Session will also occur following lunch at that same meeting. Work continues on a grant proposal, and planning for Maundy Thursday with the Parishes is underway. Rev. Lewicki invited elders to participate in an upcoming meeting to develop the summer sermon series, and Rev. Waltemath provided a reminder that she will be off during June and July, a point that was also reinforced by Wendy Cromwell as Personnel Committee chair.
- *Music Ministries* - Clint Miller submitted his report in writing, and is included in the monthly committee/council report summary.

Calendar “Go Round” Discussion: Several new items were suggested to be added to the calendar provided with the agenda, including items related to Adult Education activities in May.

Following this discussion, **a motion was made, seconded, and adopted unanimously by Session to move into an executive session in order to discuss a number of Personnel Committee related matters.** While in executive session, Wendy Cromwell, chair of the

Personnel Committee, provided an update for the session on a personnel improvement plan under development as well as progress on hiring a new CYF Director. On the latter item, a search committee is in place and job postings are outstanding with a goal to have a new director in place by June 1st.

Upcoming Meetings:

The next Stated Session Meeting will be held on **Saturday, April 27, 2019, at 9:00 a.m. in the Parlor.**

After a closing prayer led by moderator Rev. David Lewicki, the meeting was adjourned at approximately 2:20 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Michael Johnson, Clerk of Session