

## Stated Session Meeting

### North Decatur Presbyterian Church

June 9, 2019

The Session of NDPC met for a stated meeting on **Sunday, June 9, 2019, at approximately 11:20 a.m.** in the Church Parlor.

Elders present: Wendy Cromwell, Audra Grace, Jarvis Ellis, Ellen Herbert, Janet Jasper, Mike Johnson, Carol Morgan, Deedee Murphy, Gabriel Ramirez, Marion Reeves, David Wilkes, Holly Williams

Elders excused: Charles Bonner, Nancy Gathany, Jill Jacques, David Root, Macon Sandifer, Thom Schreck, Carol Tveit, Ike Veal

Elders absent: None

Pastors and Staff present: Rev. Rick Neale

Guests: None

**The meeting was called to order in the Parlor by the Moderator Rev. Rick Neale; a quorum was declared present by the Clerk and the agenda adopted as submitted.**

**Devotional:** Marion Reeves led the Session in a moving opening prayer and devotional.

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

**Approval of Upcoming Baptism:** By motion, second and unanimous consent, the Session approved the upcoming baptism of Samuel Pieper.

**Items for General Communication:** Mike Johnson shared that NDPC and the co-pastors often receive thank you letters and cards from various individuals and organizations supported by NDPC. In addition to several cards that have recently been received, while preserving the confidentiality of the individual, Mike read a very personal letter from a recent visitor who was in the midst of personal struggles, but found the church to be a warm, friendly, spiritual gift.

**2019-2020 Church Calendar Approval:** Carol Morgan introduced the consolidated church calendar, a copy of which was distributed along with the agenda. The goal of the consolidated calendar is to capture all relevant meetings, events, and activities in one calendar to ensure effective communication and planning. Updates and changes to the calendar can be submitted to the front office using [calendar@ndpc.org](mailto:calendar@ndpc.org). After a general discussion including noting a few items that still need to be added such as a Hess Academy summer camp, **a motion was made, seconded and approved unanimously to adopt the calendar.**

**Women’s Imaginative Guild of Storytellers (WIGS) Proposal:** Gabriel Ramirez indicated that he has been approached by WIGs, a group with strong connections to Janice Butts, a former NDPC member who recently passed, about holding an upcoming event in the Fellowship Hall. While a firm date has not been set, they are currently targeting a Saturday in early to mid August. Gabriel provided a handout that further described the event including logistics and set up needs. A number of questions were raised related to set up needs, cleaning fees, etc. Following the discussion, **a motion was made, seconded and approved unanimously to authorize the WIGs event subject to NDPC event policies and criteria including janitorial service fees. An amendment was also offered and approved unanimously to instruct WIGs to not bring bottled water, using tap instead consistent with NDPC’s creation care objectives.**

**“Stuck Issues” Process Pilot: Fellowship Hours Volunteers:** At the May Session meeting, Carol Morgan introduced a framework for group problem solving which was used at this meeting focused on the challenges of soliciting volunteers for food and beverages during the Fellowship hour. Holly Williams provided a handout summarizing the facts, which were then discussed and questions concerning those facts asked by session members. The facts round was followed by a round of potential explanations for why the problem is occurring, followed by clarification of the objectives for providing snacks during the Fellowship hour, including over the altered summer schedule. In the final round, potential solutions were offered. While solutions varied, there was some consensus on linking signups with the committee calendar and related marketing activities. It was agreed by all that the process led to an engaging dialogue and quality outcomes. As next steps, Carol and Holly will consider the feedback and develop a recommended amended volunteer signup proposal.

**Revitalization Grant Application Review and Approval:** A copy of the draft revitalization grant was previously distributed along with the agenda for the session meeting. Carol Morgan provided a summary of the grant proposal and fielded a number of questions and facilitated a general discussion. While some of the language needs further tightening, and more work done to support the proposed financial allocations and timelines, all agreed with the concepts and purposes outlined in the grant proposal. **Subject to further editing and refinement, a motion was made, seconded, and approved unanimously in support of submitting the grant request when ready.**

#### **Council and Committee Updates / Action Items:**

- *Personnel Committee* - Wendy Cromwell provided an update on the Children, Youth, and Family director search, specifically emphasizing that it is more than a Youth only position; a final, preferred candidate has been identified. Wendy also mentioned that she has a copy of the custodial services contract and will be working with the firm, AVS, to update and modify it as necessary.
- *Other Committee Items* - While not a specific agenda item, Deedee Murphy mentioned that the Taste of Haiti fundraiser was a huge success. Ellen Herbert also mentioned that

there will likely be a called session meeting on July 21st to examine and potentially welcome several new members.

**Staff Reports:**

- *Co-Pastors Report* - Given they are currently on vacation, there was no co-pastors report and no staff report was submitted.

**Calendar “Go Round” Discussion:** No additional items were discussed in light of the earlier calendar discussion.

**Presbytery of Greater Atlanta Volunteers:** Mike Johnson noted that the next Presbytery meeting conflicts with the Saturday, August 17, Session meeting. As a result, in addition to our permanent Presbytery attendee, Martha Shepherd, Mike will solicit several other Elders for their interest in representing NDPC at this upcoming meeting. The meeting is scheduled to be held on August 17, from 9-12:45, at Memorial Drive Presbyterian Church.

**Upcoming Meetings:**

The next Stated Session Meeting will be held on **Saturday, August 17, 2019, at 9:00 a.m. in the Parlor.**

After a closing prayer led by moderator Rev. Rick Neale, the meeting was adjourned at approximately 12:40 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

*Michael Johnson*, Clerk of Session