

Stated Session Meeting

North Decatur Presbyterian Church

August 17, 2019

The Session of NDPC met for a stated meeting/retreat on **Saturday, August 17, 2019, at approximately 9:05 a.m.** in the Church Parlor.

Elders present: Charles Bonner, Wendy Cromwell, Jarvis Ellis, Nancy Gathany, Audra Grace, Ellen Herbert, Jill Jacques, Janet Jasper, Mike Johnson, Carol Morgan, Deedee Murphy, Gabriel Ramirez, Marion Reeves, David Root, Thom Schreck, Carol Tveit, David Wilkes,

Elders excused: Macon Sandifer, Ike Veal, Holly Williams

Elders absent: None

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

Guests: None

The meeting was called to order in the Parlor by Rev. Beth Waltemath; a quorum was declared present by the Clerk and the agenda adopted as submitted.

Devotional: After a song and joint prayer, Rev. Waltemath led the Session in an opening devotional focused on John 15:4, "*Abide in me and I in you. A branch cannot bear fruit by itself. It must abide in the vine. Likewise, you cannot be fruitful unless you abide in me.*" She further discussed the theme of Abiding in Christ as a follow on to the prior session retreat in March, emphasizing the need to take "centering" time at each session meeting. The following questions were then discussed in partnership conversations.

Personal Growth

Abide in Christ: What is centering me spiritually?

Body: How do I feel physically?

Initiative: Do you have the energy for relationships and service?

Dedication: How do I stay committed when bored or challenged?

End: Do I feel connected to a larger vision of service, leadership and spiritual growth?

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

Approval of Upcoming Baptisms: A motion was made and approved unanimously by session to authorize the upcoming baptism of Miles Stephenson.

Council and Committee Updates and Approvals:

- **Adult Ed** - David Wilkes provided a summary of the upcoming 2019-2020 Adult Education course curriculum, a copy of which was previously distributed. All agreed the schedule was exciting and challenging. **A motion was made and seconded to approve the Adult Education program as submitted; the motion was approved unanimously.**
- **Global Missions** - A copy of the *Genia Cayce Micro-Loan Fund* Proposal was previously distributed. Deedee Murphy discussed the proposal which is to be funded initially from the Global Missions reserve fund and served through an existing relationship with Working Capital for Community Needs. There was a general discussion of memorial funds. Noting that the specific proposal to approve the Genia Cayce Fund also will include an ask for additional donations within and outside the congregation, **session unanimously approved the motion to authorize the fund on behalf of Global Missions.**

Spiritual Strategy: A Discussion of Strategic Funding and Grant Proposals: After a short break, with the leadership of Rev. Waltemath, session separated into groups to discuss “holy moments”. Upon reconvening, Rev. Waltemath discussed the Lesson of the Fig, “*External life begins not at the moment we die, but at the moment we wake up.*” She then discussed our relationship with time, specifically Chronos (linear) and Kairos (cyclical), and the spiritual aspect to how we receive the day. The concept of important versus urgent, especially in relation to time, was also discussed.

With that as the spiritual backdrop, Rev. David Lewicki introduced two grant proposals as a way in which NDPC continues to make spiritual investments. The previously approved revitalization grant has three distinct prongs:

- Ministry Fellows
- Choral Scholars
- Campus Improvement

Based on feedback from the Presbytery, the grant proposal was increased by \$12,500 to \$67,500. Since this was a material change, it was presented to session for reauthorization. As such, **a new motion was made, seconded and approved unanimously to support submission of the revised revitalization grant proposal.**

Rev. Lewicki also discussed a grant proposal submitted with the Calvin Institute for Worship to assist with telling God’s Creative Story. The grant was submitted by Ellen Gadberry to support the work of the liturgical arts group as well as upcoming church events in September, February and later in the Spring. There was some discussion about the amount of the grant (between \$12-13,000), and copies of both grant proposals were provided.

Meetings in Councils: Rev. Waltemath and Jill Jacques both introduced the purpose of the council breakout sessions, which were to discuss 1) a goal of each committee that needs feedback or support, 2) an idea for pruning or investing, and/or 3) a plan to operationalize the councils activities going forward. The council discussions were facilitated by:

- Administration, Mike Johnson
- Community Life, Charles Bonner
- Worship and Education, David Wilkes
- Mission, David Lewicki

Following a break, each council convened separately to hold these discussions over the next 50-60 minutes. Upon reconvening as a session, each council provided a brief report out on their deliberations. For example, Worship and Ed considered the possibility of exploring a Sunday night worship service; Missions discussed planning a field trip to Montgomery; Community Life discussed opportunities to improve processes to better serve existing work; and Administration discussed investments in security as well as potential financial systems upgrades.

Upcoming Meetings:

The next Stated Session Meeting will be held on **Sunday, September 22, 2019, at 12:30 p.m. in the Parlor.**

After a closing prayer led by moderator Rev. Beth Waltemath, the meeting was adjourned at approximately 12:00 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Michael Johnson, Clerk of Session