

Stated Session Meeting

North Decatur Presbyterian Church

December 15, 2019

The Session of NDPC met for a stated meeting on **Sunday, December 15, 2019, at approximately 12:20 p.m.** in the Church Parlor.

Elders present: Charles Bonner, Jarvis Ellis, Audra Grace, Janet Jasper, Mike Johnson, Carol Morgan, Deedee Murphy, Gabriel Ramirez, Marion Reeves, Thom Schreck, Carol Tveit, David Wilkes, Holly Williams

Elders excused: Wendy Cromwell, Nancy Gathany, Ellen Herbert, Jill Jacques, David Root

Elders absent: Macon Sandifer, Ike Veal

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

Guests: Karen Fletcher

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 unanimously with the addition of “New Business” to be discussed following the Council and Committee Updates section of the agenda.

Devotional: Deedee Murphy led the Session in an opening prayer and devotional.

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

Examination of Karen Fletcher as an Inquirer for Ministry of Word and Practice: Rev. Waltemath introduced the discussion by describing the role of session in this process, including the CPM training that will be led by Rick Neale in February, and she introduced Karen Fletcher. Karen then discussed her background and her calling, which began when she was a youth as well as her journey to date; in particular Karen felt a deep calling when she visited Columbia Seminary. Karen also discussed her journey as it relates to NDPC, her gifts and work in music. Karen’s Ministry Assessment and other forms were previously distributed to the Session for review. After some general discussion, questions, and comments especially related to Karen’s openness and honesty, Karen was dismissed pending an internal Session deliberation and vote.

In executive session, **a motion was made and seconded to accept Karen Fetcher as an Inquirer for Ministry of Word and Practice.** This opened up the discussion, which primarily focused on what accepting Karen (or any other inquirer) means for NDPC. Rev. Waltemath indicated that it is

generally a 3-year process where the inquirer is assigned a sponsor, Session prays and supports her, and there is a minimum \$300 commitment for a psychological evaluation (\$900 total cost to be split equally by Karen, NDPC, and the Presbytery). Beyond that, Rev. Waltemath reiterated that many of these questions will be addressed as part of the upcoming training. **Session then voted unanimously to accept Karen Fletcher as an Inquirer.** It was also noted that Ellen Herbert would serve as Karen's sponsor, with Marion Reeves agreeing to actively support Karen as well. Karen re-entered the Parlor and was informed of the decision, prayed for and congratulated by Session. Karen subsequently left the meeting.

Annual Report Expectations and Timeline: Mike Johnson reminded everyone that draft annual committee reports were due to Rick Neale by January 5, 2020 and referred to a previous email on this topic from Rick to the group. There was a question on the length of reports, e.g. the number of allowable characters, where it was noted that the goal is to discuss highlights and keep each report to one page.

Council and Committee Updates / Action Items:

- *Congregational Care Committee* - Audra Grace requested Session permission to fund raise for Valentine's Day for college students. The specific request is to take up an offering to purchase gift cards for students (there were 21 students last year). Based on the committee recommendation, **Session approved the fund-raising request unanimously.**
- *Worship Committee* - Janet Jasper requested approval for the communion schedule for 2020, which was previously distributed. One question was raised relative to the rationale for communion by passing versus intinction, whereby Janet mentioned we try to offer both given congregational preferences. **The communion schedule for 2020 was approved by unanimous Session vote.**

Staff Reports:

- *Co-Pastors Report* - Rev. Waltemath indicated that she would submit the Co-pastor's report in writing. She also mentioned that Jill Jacques was suffering from abdominal pain while traveling to Seattle. Jill was recently discharged from the hospital and hoped to be in a position to travel back to Atlanta shortly. Rev. Waltemath added that we remained slightly short of our stewardship goal, but she remained optimistic given the number of households remaining to pledge.

New Business: Rev. Waltemath provided reminders related to the transition process to new elders, which should be underway. All were encouraged to transition files, including policies and procedures, electronically via Google folders, etc., prior to January 12, 2020 Session meeting. Carol Morgan also introduced the idea of having a potluck lunch to celebrate new and prior elders on January 26th following the Congregational meeting. She asked for volunteers for assistance.

Calendar “Go Round” Discussion: Rev. Waltemath and Carol Morgan discussed the idea of having a Session dinner on the evening of April 17, 2020, in advance of the Session retreat the following morning. This was proposed as an alternative to an overnight retreat, and everyone was supportive of the proposal. As such, **a motion was made, seconded, and approved unanimously to amend the official 2020 Session calendar to add the dinner on April 17, 2020.**

David Wilkes also reminded Session that Adult Education classes restart on January 5, 2020, and Session was reminded that a field trip to the Legacy Museum in Montgomery, Alabama, will be held on April 4, 2020, as a kick-off to the Adult Education class on nonviolence.

Upcoming Meetings:

The next Stated Session Meeting will be held on **Sunday, January 12, 2020, at 12:30 p.m. in the Parlor.**

After a closing prayer led by moderator Rev. Waltemath, the meeting was adjourned at approximately 1:30 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Michael Johnson, Clerk of Session