

Stated Session Meeting

North Decatur Presbyterian Church

January 12, 2020

The Session of NDPC met for a stated meeting on **Sunday, January 12, 2020, at approximately 12:15 p.m.** in the Church Fellowship Hall.

Elders present: Wendy Cromwell, Jarvis Ellis, Nancy Gathany, Audra Grace, Ellen Herbert, Mike Johnson, Carol Morgan, Deedee Murphy, Gabriel Ramirez, Marion Reeves, David Root, Jill Jacques, Carol Tveit, David Wilkes, Holly Williams

Elders excused: Charles Bonner, Janet Jasper, Thom Schreck

Elders absent: Macon Sandifer, Ike Veal

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

Elders-elect for Class of 2022 present: Mark Cochran, Virginia Pribbenow, David Roberts, Cile Vardeman, Susan White, Audrey Markham

Elders-elect Excused: Claudia Brogan, Claire Dishman

Guests: None

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

Devotional: Mike Johnson led the Session in an opening devotional and prayer.

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

Examination of the Elder Class of 2022: The following elders provided their faith statements and were examined by the Session.

- Claudia Brogan (Claudia was unable to attend but her faith statement was read by Rev. Beth Waltemath)
- Mark Cochran
- Virginia Pribbenow
- David Roberts
- Cile Vardeman
- Gabriel Ramirez*
- Susan White
- Audrey Markham (youth elder serving a one year term)

*Gabriel, as an existing elder who was previously elected to fill a vacant 2 year terms, did not read another faith statement but was also approved by Session for an additional 1 year term.

Recognition of the outgoing class of 2019: Revs. Beth Waltemath and David Lewicki thanked and recognized the following outgoing class of elders with a letter read out loud by Rev. Lewicki highlighting accomplishments during their tenure in addition to providing a gift for each.

- Charles Bonner
- Michael Johnson
- Marion Reeves
- Carol Tveit
- Holly Williams
- Macon Sandifer (youth elder)
- Ike Veal (youth elder)

2020 Session Sign-up Sheets for Devotion and Lunch: Mike Johnson distributed a sign-up sheet for volunteers to deliver the devotional at each upcoming 2020 Session meeting and a separate sign up sheet to coordinate lunch.

At this point the Session meeting moved to the Church Parlor for the remainder of the meeting, which was initially moderated by Rev. David Lewicki, while the new incoming elders remained in the Fellowship Hall for new elder training led by Rev. Beth Waltemath.

Approval of Upcoming Baptisms: Rev. David Lewicki requested Session consideration for the upcoming baptism of Juniper Smith, which was **unanimously approved**.

2020 Annual Budget / Co-Pastor's Terms of Call: Wendy Cromwell, as chair of the Personnel Committee, reviewed the proposed 2020 co-pastors Terms of Call. In addition to the information distributed in advance, Wendy mentioned that we expect to add a second flexible spending account to the Terms of Call of approximately \$2,600 prior to the January 26th Congregational Meeting. There were several clarifying questions related to the flexible spending account and the co-pastors hours, especially how those hours worked over the summer months. Mike Johnson and Wendy also mentioned the possibility that later in the year the co-pastors could apply for a grant from the Presbytery to assist with potential medical expenses (such a grant would be separate from the Terms of Call). After this discussion, **a motion was made and seconded to approve the Terms of Call as presented along with the inclusion of the added flexible spending account; this motion was approved unanimously by the Session.**

The proposed 2020 budget was presented by Gabriel Ramirez. Gabriel mentioned that not all expected pledges have been received to date, therefore these anticipated pledges are not included in the presented budget, which was also distributed in advance. Since pledges to date are above expectations, the additional flexibility spending account mentioned previously is already accounted for in the budget. After some discussion of how to include additional pledges

into the budget, **a motion was made, seconded and approved unanimously to approve the budget as submitted.** Separately, Gabriel was asked to return to Session at its March meeting to present a proposal for the allocation and use of any subsequent pledges to be received.

Prior to the budget approval, Rev. David Lewicki departed at approximately 1:30 due to another obligation and the remainder of the meeting was moderated by Mike Johnson, Clerk of Session.

Elder Nominating Committee Election for 2020: The elder nominating committee is typically comprised of three current members of Session and three members from the congregation not currently serving on Session, with a fourth member comprising the previous nominating committee chair in an ex-officio role. Mike Johnson asked for three Session volunteers to serve on the nominating committee for 2020 to be presented and elected at the Congregational Meeting on January 26, 2020. **Nancy Gathany, Ellen Herbert and Jarvis Ellis volunteered to serve as the Session members on the nominating committee subject to the upcoming Congregational election.**

Election of Treasurer and Clerk of Session: A motion was made, seconded and the Session then unanimously approved the following:

- Cathy Fincher to serve as treasurer of the NDPC corporation for a one-year term.
- David Roberts to serve as Clerk of Session of NDPC for a one-year term.

Election of Presbytery of Great Atlanta Meeting Commissioners: Mike Johnson requested a volunteer from the outgoing Session class to serve a 1-year term in 2020 as NDPC commissioner at the Presbytery of Greater Atlanta meetings. He also requested 2 volunteers (for a total of 3 commissioners) to represent NDPC at the next Presbytery meeting at Alpharetta Presbyterian Church on February 8, 2020. Marion Reeves volunteered to serve the 1-year, 2020, term as commissioner and David Root and Holly Williams both volunteered to serve as commissioners at the February 8 meeting. **A motion was made, seconded and approved unanimously to elect Marion for the 1-year term for 2020 as well as to elect David and Holly as commissioners for the February meeting.**

Approval of Special Offerings for 2020: Mike Johnson requested session approval for several special offerings to be collected during 2020 including: One Great Hour of Sharing, Pentecost, Peacemaking and Global Witness (1st week of October), and Christmas Joy (Advent and Christmas Eve). **A motion was made, seconded and adopted unanimously to approve the proposed offerings.**

Council and Committee Updates / Action Items:

- *Community Ministries* - Nancy Gathany requested approval for the annual Souper Bowl fundraiser, **approval of which was adopted unanimously by Session.**

Staff Reports:

- *Music Ministries* - Clint Miller mentioned that 368 individuals attended the Christmas at Medlock holiday concert, which raised \$2,100 in donations. Attendance continues to grow to the point that some thought has been given to adding a second event in the future. See additional information in the Music Ministries monthly report.

Calendar Go Around: On behalf of Carol Morgan, Mike Johnson provided a reminder regarding each committee's revolving monthly recruitment, including Minute for Ministry. Carol Tveit also requested volunteers to read the names of victims of gun violence at the next worship service.

Upcoming Meetings:

The next Stated Session Meeting will be held on **Sunday, February 9, 2020, at approximately 12:30 p.m. in the Parlor.**

After a closing prayer led by David Wilkes, the meeting was adjourned at approximately 2:05 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Michael Johnson, Clerk of Session