



SESSION DOCUMENTS

Mon, Oct 28, 2024

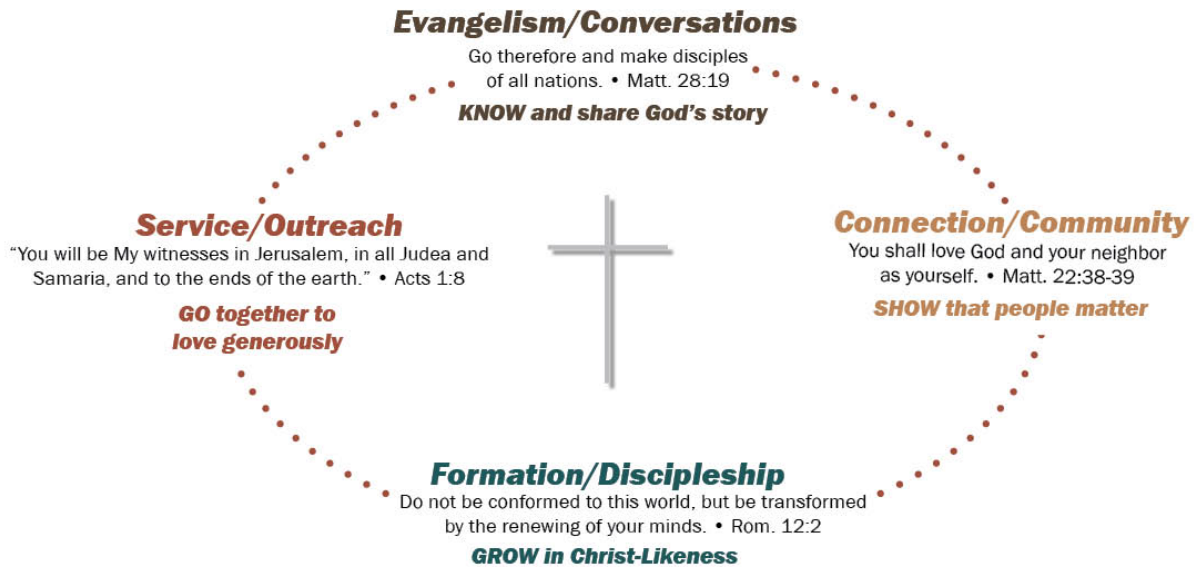
Session Meeting Agenda

October 28, 2024



Strategic Goals

2023-2028



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1. **Call to Order and Opening Prayer** (Beth Case)
 2. **Establishment of Quorum** (Bob Holloway)
 3. **New Members** (Dan Aikins)
Rejane Brunello, Travis James Swingle
Motion: *to receive the above-named friends as Covenant Partners at MDPC.*

4. **ECO Ordination Candidate** – Willman Parraci
Motion *to receive Willman Parraci as an Inquirer for ECO Ordination Candidacy.*

5. **Prayer and Commissioning for Ashton Wascom**

6. **Why Being a City Church Matters to God?** (Alf Halvorson)

7. **Clerk's Report** (Bob Holloway and Joe Stockdale)
 - a. Congregational Meeting Recap
 - b. Officer Job Description Updates- Requests to Outgoing Officers

8. Finance Report (Bob Davis and Marcus Vajdos)
- a. 2025 Budget Season
9. Generosity Update (Bill Swenson and Michael McCormack)

10. Omnibus Agenda

- a. Motion to approve the minutes of the September 23, 2024, Session Meeting.
- b. Motion to approve the minutes of the October 20, 2024, Congregational Meeting.
- c. Transfers and Dismissals
- Please transfer the following active member:

Dukes, Amy to The Woodlands Methodist Church of The Woodlands, TX.

- d. Motion to approve Outreach Partner Funding for October as follows:

1. Partner Funding Recommendations		Designated	
• The Beacon	\$20,000		CFH
• Buckner Children & Family Services	\$15,000	Aldine Location	CFH
• The Forge for Families	\$32,500		CFH
• Mission Centers of Houston	\$30,000		CFH
• Outreach Center of West Houston	\$10,000		CFH
• Star of Hope	\$25,000		CFH
• The Gathering of Men	\$6,000		DE
• Presbytery of New Covenant	\$35,000	Houston International Seafarers' Min.	DE
• Easter Seals of Greater Houston	\$25,000	Adult Day Program	HSN
• Prayers of the People	\$10,000		HSN
• The Rose	\$20,000		HSN
• Senior Rides and More	\$7,000		HSN
• Vita Living	\$25,000		HSN
• Blessings in a Backpack	\$8,000	Bayou City Blessings in a Backpack	SBH
• East Spring Branch Food Pantry	\$5,000		SBH
• Interfaith Ministries	\$35,000	Meals on Wheels & Animeals	SBH
• The Outreach Foundation	\$4,000	Evangelical Theological Seminary in Cairo	Global
Totaling:		\$312,500	
2. Outreach Initiatives		Designated	
• Steiger International	\$17,500	US Operations	
• Steiger International	\$2,500	Personal support for Carolina & Jozef Knapik	
• Street Grace	\$65,000	Street Grace Houston	
• Houston Food Bank	\$33,000	HCC Eagle Pantry & Backpack Buddies	
• Alpha USA	\$10,000	Youth Film Series	
Totaling:		\$128,000	

3. Christmas Eve Offering 2024 Partners

Designated Missionary

*Funding will be distributed proportionately based on missionary funding level.

• Urban Catalyst	Designated: Justin Elder	Local
• The Antioch Partners	Designated: Adair	Global
• Frontier Fellowship	Designated: Biru	Global
• CRU	Designated: Missionary #0638840	Global
• Steven and Natalie Hall		Global
• Frontiers	Designated: Missionary #004554	Global
• YWAM	Designated: Personal Support (Johnson)	Global
• Allegro Organizational Solutions	Designated: Acct# NYC-BB.KSJ	Global
• The Antioch Partners	Designated: Leina & Salam	Global
• Action International Ministries	Designated: Acct# 47001	Global
• Frontier Fellowship	Designated: McNerney	Global
• Pioneers	Designated: Acct# 112440	Global
• Novo Mission Inc.	Designated: Acct# 6781 Zovak	Global

4. Mission Market 2024 Partners

*Funding will be distributed based on purchaser selection.

• The Antioch Partners		Global
• Faith in Practice		Global
• Free Wheelchair Mission		Global
• Living Water International		Global
• Grace International Children's Foundation	Lulwanda Children's Home	Global
• The Micah Project		Global
• Pars Theological Centre		Global
• Casa de Esperanza de los Ninos		CFH
• Open Door Mission		CFH
• Camp for All		DE
• Bridges to Life		DE
• Casa El Buen Samaritano		HSN
• Joy Ride Center		HSN
• Bayou City Blessings in a Backpack		SBH
• Local Infant Formula for Emergencies (L.I.F.E.)		SBH

11. Calendar Reminders

October 27	Alf Halvorson Preaching Generosity Series- 1 st of 2 Weeks
October 28	Session Meeting
November 3	Alf Halvorson Preaching Covenant Sunday Generosity Series- 2 nd of 2 Weeks
November 10	Alf Halvorson Preaching Confirmation Sunday -Special Sessing Meeting 9 a.m. Baptisms: Immersion & Sprinkling
November 17	Alf Halvorson Preaching Third Grade Bibles
November 24	Alf Halvorson Preaching Thanksgiving Emphasis
December 1	Alf Halvorson Preaching First Sunday in Advent Communion
December 8	Alf Halvorson Preaching Second Sunday in Advent
December 15	Alf Halvorson Preaching Third Sunday in Advent
December 22	Alf Halvorson Preaching Fourth Sunday in Advent
December 24	Christmas Eve Services: 2 pm, 4 pm Family Service, 5:30, 7:00, 8:30

Remaining 2024 Session Meeting Dates

December 16

Looking Forward:

New Officer Training- November 7 & 14, 2024

New Officer Installation- January 12, 2025

Officer and Staff Retreat – January 24-25th -MDPC

ECO National Gathering-Highland Park Presbyterian- Dallas, TX- January 27-29, 2025

12. WayForward Backpacking Trip Recap (Alex Knoop)

13. Announcements and Additional Business

14. Adjournment

Motion to adjourn the October 2024 Session Meeting.

15. Prayer (Beth Case)

Memorial Drive Presbyterian Church
Balance Sheet Thru September
MDPC Summary Balance Sheet-2024

Name	Month to Month			
	September 2024	July 2024	Difference	September 2023
ASSETS				
Unrestricted Cash & Cash Equivalents	4,101,249.80	2,400,296.42	1,700,953.38	1,836,984.22
Current Investments (Unrestricted)	1,514,176.84	1,807,711.93	(293,535.09)	2,278,429.61
Total Unrestricted Cash & Cash Equivalents	5,615,426.64	4,208,008.35	1,407,418.29	4,115,413.83
Current Investments (Restricted)	2,476,089.99	2,386,722.83	89,367.16	2,242,579.96
Legacy Restricted Cash & Equivalents	4,548,606.92	5,639,596.21	(1,090,989.29)	4,289,519.86
Total Restricted Cash & Equivalents	7,024,696.91	8,026,319.04	(1,001,622.13)	6,532,099.82
Prepaid Expense, Deposits, Inventory	727,212.38	573,413.60	153,798.78	414,403.95
Miscellaneous Receivables	26,811.45	22,605.71	4,205.74	36,750.28
Property & Equipment	55,618,502.77	55,618,502.77	-	54,571,872.49
Accumulated Depreciation	(47,575,114.53)	(47,575,114.53)	-	(46,273,756.61)
Note Receivable	-	-	-	-
TOTAL ASSETS	21,437,535.62	20,873,734.94	563,800.68	19,396,783.76
LIABILITIES				
Accounts Payable	1,045,477.24	580,220.91	465,256.33	678,504.02
Other Payables	87,253.54	83,932.38	3,321.16	49,134.20
Prepaid Tuition and Fees	15,006.67	43,730.00	(28,723.33)	13,782.50
Custodial Accounts	33,139.88	33,051.22	88.66	49,355.24
Note Payable-PNC /PPP	-	-	-	-
TOTAL LIABILITIES	1,180,877.33	740,934.51	439,942.82	790,775.96
NET ASSETS				
Unrestricted Net Assets	11,894,027.85	11,848,428.45	45,599.40	10,748,666.28
Temp. Restricted Net Assets	2,993,613.99	2,972,835.38	20,778.61	2,752,738.93
Perm. Restricted Net Assets	433,857.59	433,857.59	-	433,857.59
Restricted Legacy Net Assets	4,935,158.86	4,877,679.01	57,479.85	4,670,745.00
TOTAL NET ASSETS	20,256,658.29	20,132,800.43	123,857.86	18,606,007.80
TOTAL LIABILITIES & NET ASSETS	21,437,535.62	20,873,734.94	563,800.68	19,396,783.76

Budgeted Financial Statement for Period 9 - September
SUMMARY INCOME & EXPENSE - 2024
Company#: 1 Name: Memorial Drive Presbyterian Church
Fiscal Year Beginning 1/1/2024

Description	Sep-24	2024 Actual YTD	2024 Budget YTD	Over (Under) Budget	% Variance YTD	2023 Actual YTD	Budget 2024 Full Year
OPERATING INCOME							
Contributions	\$ 1,260,523	\$ 9,284,587	\$ 7,996,118	\$ 1,288,469	16.11%	\$ 7,678,723	\$ 13,719,797
Ministry Events Revenue	\$ 255,160	\$ 2,297,699	\$ 2,331,488	\$ (33,789)	-1.45%	\$ 2,239,591	\$ 3,061,907
Other Operating Income	\$ 70,571	\$ 313,284	\$ 75,000	\$ 238,284	317.71%	\$ 184,128	\$ 100,000
TOTAL OPERATING INCOME	1,586,254	11,895,570	10,402,606	1,492,965	14.35%	10,102,442	16,881,704
Ministry Operating Expense							
Pastoral Ministry							
Caring Ministry	\$ 32,798	\$ 307,881	\$ 332,927	\$ (25,046)	-7.52%	\$ 312,743	\$ 448,929
Fuente	\$ 14,916	\$ 129,720	\$ 77,531	\$ 52,189	67.31%	\$ 55,649	\$ 106,765
Children's Ministry	\$ 63,321	\$ 641,927	\$ 675,304	\$ (33,377)	-4.94%	\$ 665,122	\$ 885,876
Youth Ministry	\$ 64,127	\$ 427,500	\$ 422,730	\$ 4,770	1.13%	\$ 408,211	\$ 567,216
Relationships	\$ 23,308	\$ 262,161	\$ 300,670	\$ (38,509)	-12.81%	\$ 257,767	\$ 393,813
Sports and REACH Programs	\$ 21,624	\$ 340,056	\$ 325,747	\$ 14,309	4.39%	\$ 326,103	\$ 417,441
Outreach (Admin)	\$ 54,844	\$ 484,662	\$ 456,645	\$ 28,017	6.14%	\$ 427,417	\$ 607,660
Adult Discipleship	\$ 32,718	\$ 304,670	\$ 302,591	\$ 2,079	0.69%	\$ 269,163	\$ 403,494
Young Adult	\$ 17,248	\$ 115,895	\$ 158,075	\$ (42,180)	-26.68%	\$ 183,900	\$ 213,538
Worship	\$ 12,755	\$ 339,361	\$ 397,813	\$ (58,452)	-14.69%	\$ 311,520	\$ 529,786
Traditional Music	\$ 35,159	\$ 323,083	\$ 310,453	\$ 12,630	4.07%	\$ 297,354	\$ 426,904
Contemporary Music	\$ 28,423	\$ 250,323	\$ 254,597	\$ (4,274)	-1.68%	\$ 240,559	\$ 337,296
Brazilian Ministry	\$ 25,476	\$ 150,035	\$ 148,221	\$ 1,814	1.22%	\$ 118,987	\$ 197,624
Total Pastoral Ministry	\$ 426,717	\$ 4,077,276	\$ 4,163,304	\$ (86,028)	-2.07%	\$ 3,874,497	\$ 5,536,342
Support Ministry							
Communications & Media	\$ 81,222	\$ 702,324	\$ 678,975	\$ 23,349	3.44%	\$ 682,347	\$ 905,300
Administration	\$ 78,149	\$ 670,642	\$ 627,121	\$ 43,521	6.94%	\$ 687,166	\$ 820,741
Food Service	\$ 14,623	\$ 119,757	\$ 116,250	\$ 3,507	3.02%	\$ 96,043	\$ 155,000
Facilities & Technology	\$ 280,257	\$ 2,207,762	\$ 1,796,650	\$ 411,113	22.88%	\$ 1,792,754	\$ 2,380,816
The Little School	\$ 101,798	\$ 859,604	\$ 947,046	\$ (87,442)	-9.23%	\$ 827,345	\$ 1,255,145
The Yellow School	\$ 54,567	\$ 577,250	\$ 578,643	\$ (1,393)	-0.24%	\$ 600,890	\$ 758,233
Total Support Ministry	\$ 610,617	\$ 5,137,339	\$ 4,744,685	\$ 392,654	8.28%	\$ 4,686,545	\$ 6,275,235
Anticipated Budget Reduction	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	#DIV/0!	\$ -	\$ -
Total Ministry Operating Expense	\$ 1,037,334	\$ 9,214,615	\$ 8,907,988	\$ 306,626	3.44%	\$ 8,561,042	\$ 11,811,577
Outreach Expense							
Outreach - Ministry Sponsored	\$ 95,702	\$ 876,687	\$ 980,741	\$ (104,053.68)	-0.11%	\$ 946,415	\$ 1,293,639
Outreach - Ministry Partners	\$ 361,500	\$ 2,039,881	\$ 1,799,800	\$ 240,080.77	0.13%	\$ 2,240,433	\$ 3,181,488
Total Outreach Expense	\$ 457,202	\$ 2,916,568	\$ 2,780,541	\$ 136,027.09	0.05%	\$ 3,186,848	\$ 4,475,127
Other Operating Expense							
Insurance & Legal	\$ 47,042	\$ 415,296	\$ 408,750	\$ 6,546	1.60%	\$ 338,559	\$ 545,000
Capital Additions/Reserve	\$ 4,167	\$ 37,500	\$ 37,500	\$ (0)	0.00%	\$ 37,500	\$ 50,000
Total Other Operating Expense	\$ 51,209	\$ 452,796	\$ 446,250	\$ 6,546	1.47%	\$ 376,059	\$ 595,000
TOTAL OPERATING EXPENSES	\$ 1,545,745	\$ 12,583,978	\$ 12,134,779	\$ 449,199	3.70%	\$ 12,123,950	\$ 16,881,704
Other Income(Loss)							
Total Other Income(Loss)	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	0%	\$ -	\$ -
NET INCOME (LOSS)	\$ 40,508	\$ (688,408)	\$ (1,732,173)	\$ 1,043,766	-60.26%	\$ (2,021,508)	\$ 0
Restr & Enrichment Inc/(Exp)	\$ 83,349	\$ 35,216	\$ -	\$ 35,216	0%	\$ (343,191)	\$ -

MINUTES OF THE STATED MEETING OF THE SESSION
Memorial Drive Presbyterian Church
September 23, 2024

Elders Present: Chris Arend, Sandy Ballard, Rick Bradford, Tom Braschayko, Ellen Davidson, Bob Davis, Stephanie Espinoza, Ginny French, Bob Holloway, Laura Miller, Christina Morse, Stefano Lugo, Rafael Moreira, Christina Morse, Mike Pelton, Kathy Redden, Sharon Roark, David Shelfer, Joe Stockdale, Jeff Taylor, Mandy Todd, Kyle Wienert

Elders Excused: Jeannie Able, Mariel Braun, Marc Laney, Alex Knoop, Michael Kringel, Michael McCormack, Nathan Stedham

Elders Absent: Jennifer Fernelius, Sara Kuhn, Tarryn Lankford, Madison Limbacher, Dillon Shindler, Leslie Sloan, Bill Swenson, Ryan Taylor, Mat Yelvington

Pastors Present: Dan Aikins, Clay Brown, Beth Case, Almir Dias, Alf Halvorson, Brett Hurst, Guillermo Yela

Other Staff Present: Amy Delgado, Sally Henien, Jennifer Vajdos, Marcus Vajdos

Call to Order: Pastor Beth Case called the meeting of the Session of Memorial Drive Presbyterian Church to order at 6:35 pm in the Chapel. She opened with a Psalm and prayer.

Call for Quorum: The Clerk, Bob Holloway, affirmed that a quorum was present.

New Members (Dan Aikins and Almir Dias)

Rivson Accioly, Dennis Aragon, Melissa Aragon, Peggy Christensen, Julie Cooper, Kyle Cooper, Katy Coleman, Ross Coleman, Giuliana Mendes, Hilton Mendes, Elizeu Roza

The above candidates in the Chapel and online via Teams, were invited by Dan Aikins and Almir Dias to introduce themselves, telling Session why they were attracted to MDPC and one place they want to serve. There were some technical difficulties with those joining via Teams, but we were able to engage via speaker phone with the Aragon, Cooper and Mendes family online!

Beth noted that belonging is so important in being part of the church, and with that she had three questions related to “belonging” which she asked of each. Beth then asked for the **Motion:** *to receive the above-named friends as Covenant Partners at MDPC*, which was made and seconded. The motion was approved unanimously and with great joy. Pastor Almir prayed a blessing over our newest members in Portuguese and Beth dismissed them with the invitation to remain for the duration of the meeting or to be excused.

Time with Alf- Why Being a City Church Matters to God?

Alf had the opportunity to read these two books this summer: Megacities: Biblical Lessons for Today by James White, a missionary in Brazil and Why City Matters to God, the Culture and the Church by Stepen T. Um and Justin Buzzard.

Have you ever wondered that our church is 13 miles west of downtown Houston-and by the latest projections, the city center is at the corner of Beltway 8 and I-10, so we are at the center of the population as it grows and expands- does that matter at all? Alf mentioned that he is the only son of an only son of an only son of an only son. Six generations of men/ boys will continue the Halvorson name with a grandbaby boy to be born in November! Alf’s dad grew up in South Central Minnesota- his dad worked at a cannery there- farms with corn and soybeans in the area-population 587-through the GI bill, his dad went to the Univ of Minnesota and earned an engineering degree, spending his entire career at 3M- Minneapolis, St Paul went to big cities all around the US and world. Alf grew up in bedroom community in Minnesota population 5K, then in Wisconsin- Port Edwards population 11K, he spent junior high and high school in Nevada, MO with a population less than 10K. Then with seminary and his first call in Ames, Iowa- population 50K and with students of Iowa state another 35K- he and Shari were then in Springfield, MO for 12 yrs-population 150K but the 3rd largest area in MO behind KC and St

Louis -he then spent 8 years in Bethlehem, PA- with Allentown and Easton, it was the 3rd largest area in Pennsylvania- then here to Houston , the 3rd largest city in America. People are leaving other states to go to Southern states- and **currently Texas has 4 of the 10 largest cities in America.** If we are do some Biblical theology in looking at the two books referenced, ***what does it mean that we are in a city? In Houston, Texas? Did you ever think that the Bible from Genesis to Revelation talks about a city a lot?*** We start in the garden of Eden- with a cultural mandate to be fruitful, multiply, and fill the earth-an extension of that mandate is that cities would happen and as they are built you add art, business, music, education, literature, law, medicine, finance, etc. The first city mentioned in Gen 4:17 was Enoch, an extension of the cultural mandate happened -the first city before sin- work in the Bible happens before sin- after sin, work becomes hard, and cities become conflicted places- Cain committed first murder of his brother Abel. From the beginning, cities have not been without their challenges- they've been tainted. On a drive this summer in Michigan, he and Shari saw the sign "The City for Wealth- The Country for Health" -where do you really want to be? Is the city bad in and of itself? Gen 10:12 -Resin a "great" city -meaning "significant"- for good or significant for evil-everything is accentuated in a city- we go to cities for protection, to overcome loneliness with community. to do more together for good or bad if drawn in that direction. -the city of Babel grew with a goal to be great without God and a rival to God- it was built out of pride to make a name for itself apart from God. "Significant" in a detrimental way. Abraham chooses to live in Jordan River Valley and Lot in Sodom and Gomorrah. God wanted to preserve those cities -do you remember the story? if there are x righteous people, God won't level the city...are there 50 righteous, 40, 30, 20, 10? Abraham gets to 10 and the city was ultimately flattened, **but God cares about the city.** In Exodus 1:11 -Israelites forced to build cities for Pharaoh. Slavery builds cities- sin sometimes builds cities. Other people in the promised land built and the Israelites took over. Jer 29:7 where the people of God were sent into Exile -sent to Babylon and then to Susa in Persia -in Esther's story that we are studying. They were to seek the peace and prosperity of the city. While in exile, still work for good in the city that has taken you there because in its prosperity will be your prosperity...*we are to help the cities to become better than they were and somehow glorify God in that act.* Jerusalem becomes the key city Biblically - the City of David, the City of God- Augustine says in his book in the 300s that the physical city of Jerusalem is what we try to reproduce spiritually in any other city in the world that we reside in. Psalm 83..." City of God". After the exile, Ezra and Nehemiah are invited to come back to rebuild the city to ensure that there is justice, hope, peace, and a future there. Even Jonah was called to Ninevah to preach repentance to that city when he wanted to preach damnation. The last sentence of the book is a question from God "Should I not be concerned about Ninevah that great city....? God even cares for our enemy cities-**every city matters to God.** In the New Testament- Jesus grew up in a small town in the north, Nazareth- he continued to go to the big city for festivals- to Jerusalem over and over- *he sets his face to go and will never leave it - he would go to Jerusalem to die for you and me.* Jesus weeps for the city when he arrives and looks over it. Whatever God weeps for, should we weep for? **Have you ever wept for Houston? Has the brokenness of a city ever caused you to weep or your heart to be so pained?** If we go on to Paul's ministry- Paul goes to all the great cities of the empire of his day. ***The early church is distinctly urban, strategically, specifically urban.*** Corinth quickly experienced a great influx from the west and east- it was the Houston of the day-Antioch of Syria was a strong competitor- Paul's Corinth was once the NY, the LA, and the Las Vegas of the day.

Info on cities Alf collected from his Footsteps of Paul journey- Antioch of Syria- 500K people; Corinth- 500K, Rome- 1M plus 1M passing through; Ephesus- 400 K; Tarsus where Paul grew up- 500K - Tarsus in the 1st century AD, was where the Greek scholars of the day were. Paul got the best Greek education in the world and then went on to Jerusalem for his finishing education. We got the benefit. **Why did you go to cities?** Cities keep us safe; they keep us social, and they shape our sacred religious life. The city is about power, culture, spirituality if there are converts they will spread out and go back home and with their businesses spread the gospel across the world of the day - cities are magnets -they hold promise, hope, chance for a new start-cities are also places of great pain loneliness poverty violence and exploitation, - Houston may just be the greatest hub of human trafficking right now In Revelation 21 &22 the new Jerusalem no more weeping, no more mourning crying, no more death. no more night, no more temple because presence of God fills the entire city. **The Bible starts in a garden-then moves to the city quickly-and ends in a city that has a garden in it. The Bible sees cities and the City of God as key.**

Alf shared interesting data and statistics from roughly 10 years ago...about the history of the city and its future. Finished with - Albert Mohler, president of The Southern Baptist Theological Seminary in Louisville in 2010 wrote, said **"In the course of less than 300 years, our world will have shifted from one in which 3% of people were living in cities to one in which 80% are resident in urban areas. If the Christian church does not learn how**

to do new modes of ministry, we will find ourselves on the outside looking in. The gospel of Jesus Christ must call a new generation of Christians into the cities. "As cities go, so goes the world"

What does this mean for us? If MDPC's four pillars are one- Belonging/ community fellowship- if people come to our city lonely and isolated, how might we be that island?-second emphasis- Evangelism- many are coming to the city from a secular background not knowing Jesus- we better figure out ways to talk about Jesus in a winsome way that answers questions- and third, our Discipleship/Formation lens. We must have people more fully formed that look like Jesus Christ to be advertisements of what the faith is and to meet the needs of those that come with challenges-and fourth- Mission and Outreach – we are ahead of many churches because of our 120-130 local and international partnerships and not only do we share the good news but also help to alleviate human need.

We are not supposed to be the same as the city nor isolated from the city – we are to be in the city but distinct while in the city Biblically- in and with, but not the same. Stephen Klineberg-retired faculty at Rice says that because Houston is the most diverse city in America, it is ahead of most – we are what those cities will be by 2050 - 25% white, 25% Hispanic, 25% African American, 25% Pacific Rim- we are the pacesetter or the lead dog or the early adopter that other cities will imitate for good or for bad. MDPC fights above our weight class because of our radical generosity and yet we are a neighborhood church at the same time. We are with those people that are developing policies in Spring Branch and throughout our city. We are a church that has a pretty good balance between the horizontal and vertical. The referenced book ends with understanding the city...Not every city is the same so churches will have different expressions. Image examples: Boston- knowledge, DC- power, SF – equality, Oklahoma City- Family; LA- Image; NY City- Success. ***Every city has an ethos, and every city has an idolatry.*** Good churches name the idolatry and point people back to God. What is Houston's image/reputation/ values? How might that influence us as a church? Traffic- it's a driving area/city, energy hub/capital, you can make it here with hard work, diversity, energy, hospitality, people are welcoming and generous (Katrina), fusion, NASA, medicine, wildcatter mentality, entrepreneurial – per Tom Tewell, "MDPC will try anything at least once/we will dig a well." Is MDPC working on getting younger? Are we focused on age, demographics, culture. Do we need to more fully reflect Houston's diversity? Is there a future for a Korean, African American, Pacific Rim congregation here at MDPC? What are our idolatries in 77024? Comfort, greed, "the golden ghetto", rectangle where there is more prosperity...bigger is better.

There is a series of questions on screen and in your online packet (also attached to minutes)- take these to your committees perhaps. Discussion around one question tonight:

❖ **What would the apostle Paul say, pray, and do if he were doing ministry in my city?**

Alf closed by noting our vote and 50K expenditure on master planning- they will likely report back in February or March with a potential vote in the spring on expansion -shouldn't our building recognize that we are in this city church mentality? As we pray, we are trying to poise ourselves for where MDPC will be and fit into where our city will be in 2050.

Clerk's Report: (Bob Holloway and Joe Stockdale)

Joe Stockdale gave an update on the Presbytery Meeting in San Antonio which he attended along with pastors from MDPC, Dan Aikins, Clay Brown, Beth Case. He also gave a brief update on the work of the Nominating Committee. Very close to filling all positions for the Class of 2027. Thank you for all the great nominations! **Bob Holloway** gave mention to the ECO National Gathering in Dallas- January 2025- he encouraged us to go and see what other ECO churches are doing and what the focus is. Make yourself available to go! It's a good foundation as a leader. *Those rolling off in 2024 were asked to look at their Job Descriptions as we look to provide the most updated information to our new officer candidates when asked to serve.* Bob indicated that Elders again would get information encouraging you to look at those job descriptions. Think about those jobs in relation to Metanoia. What would God do in the decision making?

Finance Report: (Bob Davis) We are in good shape because we are in a big city, and we are following our four pillars. We are in a new season of the year when Marcus is looking at 2025 Budget. Our budget to date, we have done very well. Credit to the staff for looking at budgets, understanding budgets, and trying to live within their budgets. Thank you, Marcus and staff. In one area on the expense side, we are looking into a reason why we are over. On the contribution side, we are doing extremely well. Some may be giving a little earlier in the year which makes cash flows easier to manage throughout the year. We do expect the gap to close but can be hopeful it doesn't! Marcus mentioned the five big projects this summer- the last one being CLC roof project starting today, and monument signs up and running in next week or two. Concrete for pickleball needs 2-5 weeks to cure.

Hopefully it will cure quickly so we can open in November!

Omnibus Agenda:

Beth introduced the Omnibus Motion below for September. As we typically do, it was asked if there were any items that needed to be removed for separate consideration. Beth mentioned earlier tonight that part of cleaning the roles for BPC is also to release those who wish to share the love of Christ back in Brazil or out of state in the US or elsewhere. Thus, the reason for the large number of membership transfers. Also please note in b. that we usually baptize the children of members -the parents and/or grandparents. Our Baptism team is intentional about getting to know these families and their relationships to the church. Dan updated us tonight that Paige Buck was wrongly cleaned from the roles in college. Also, the Menards have a family connection to MDPC, but currently live away in Chicago for her medical residency and they are with a church that does not do infant Baptisms. Beth asked if someone would please make a **Motion** to receive *Paige Johnson Buck as a Member*. The motion was made, seconded, voted on and carried. **Jennifer will note as a friendly amendment to the Omnibus in the minutes.*

Beth then asked for a motion to approve the Omnibus Motion as presented, which was forthcoming, seconded, and affirmed by unanimous voice vote.

- a. **Motion** to approve the minutes of the August 26, 2024, Session Meeting.
- b. **Motion** to approve the following Baptisms performed in September 2024:

Name	Age	Parents	Member	Date
Rivson Accioly	Adult	n/a	Yes-BPC	9/8/2024
Alice Vieira Anjos	Youth	Eneida and Fabricio Anjos	Yes-BPC	9/8/2024
Bailey Paige Buck	Infant	Paige Johnson and Travis Buck	No	9/8/2024
Elizabeth Valentine Eicher	Child	Lauren Johnson and Jacob Eicher	No	9/8/2024
Madeleine Abigail Eicher	Child	Lauren Johnson and Jacob Eicher	No	9/8/2024
Maria Zelia Leonidas	Child	Patricia and Aristoteles Leonidas	Yes-BPC	9/8/2024
Sophia Grace Menard	Infant	Caitlin McKee and Christopher Menard	No	9/8/2024
Filipe Guedes Mendes	Child	Giuliana and Hilton Mendes	Yes-BPC	9/8/2024

c. Transfers and Dismissals

Please transfer the following active member:

Little, Harrison to Chapelwood United Methodist Church of Houston, TX.

Please transfer, by their own request, the following active members of the Brazilian Presbyterian Church (BPC):

Andrade, Roberto
Andrade, Diane
Araujo, Ocean
Costa, Elisabeth
Costa da Silva, Ricardo
Dias, Mirian
Garcia, Gisele
Garcia, Ivonete

Hennessey, Monica
Lace, Lucas
Le Diagon, Galiana
Maciel, Carla
Madruga, Ricardo
Matheus, Felipe
Maximo, Luciano
Monteiro, Fabio
Nunes, Filipe
Reis, Tereza Cristina
Rodrigues, Bruno
Silva, Juliana Santana
Souza, Diego
Tavares, Helder
Tavares, Alane
Vazquez, Rebecca

d. ***Motion** to approve Outreach Partner Funding for September as follows:*

Outreach Ministry
September 2024

Consent Agenda items:

Partner Funding Recommendations		Designated	
Galveston Urban Ministries	\$10,000		CFH
Houston Welcomes Refugees	\$7,500		CFH
SEARCH Homeless Services	\$30,000	House of Tiny Treasures	CFH
Faithful Fathering	\$25,000		DE
FinD	\$20,000		DE
The Get Together	\$7,500		DE
Young Life of Greater Houston	\$14,000	Next Gen Leaders	DE
Young Life of Greater Houston	\$10,000	West Houston/ Young Lives	DE
Young Life of Greater Houston	\$26,000	Capernaum	DE
Amazing Place	\$30,000	Connections Program Phase 2	HSN
CarePartners	\$20,000	Caregiver community-based programs	HSN
Demand Disruption	\$5,000		HSN
His Grace Foundation	\$18,000		HSN
Houston Area Parkinson's Society	\$10,000	Exercise Programs	HSN
Parent Project Muscular Dystrophy	\$13,000	South Texas Family Camp	HSN
Kids' Meals	\$20,000		SBH
Mission of Yahweh	\$20,000		SBH
Salvation Army	\$20,000	Houston Food and Meal Programs	SBH
SpringSpirit	\$25,000		SBH
Pars Theological Centre	\$20,000		Global
ICM	\$5,000		Global

Pioneers

\$5,500

Missionary Account # 112440

Global

Totaling: \$361,500

Year to Date: \$2,038,850

Remaining 2024 Session Meeting Dates

October 28

November- No Meeting

December 16

Looking Forward:

New Officer Training- November 7 & 14, 2024

New Officer Installation- January 12, 2025

Officer and Staff Retreat – January 24-25th in Houston- Details TBD

ECO National Gathering-Highland Park Presbyterian- Dallas, TX- January 27-29, 2025

Announcements and Additional Business

Calendar: Congregational Meeting on 10/20 at all 5 services explicitly for the congregation to approve the work of the nominating committee. After that meeting, we can connect with these newly elected officers and invite them to our last meetings of the year.

Outreach Sunday October 29th!!

There being no additional business or announcements, Beth asked for a motion to adjourn which was forthcoming, seconded and approved. We closed the meeting at 7:57 and circled up for prayer led by Beth Case.

Minutes respectfully submitted on behalf of Bob Holloway, Clerk.

Jennifer Vajdos, September 2024

Questions for Discussion

- ❖ What would it look like if a large percentage of my city were to be reached with the Gospel?
- ❖ What would my city feel like if people loved their enemies?
- ❖ How can the culture and economy of my city make meaningful contributions for the benefit of others around the world?
- ❖ What are the chief problems, prejudices, and inequalities of my city, and how can Christians participate fruitfully in moving toward possible solutions?
- ❖ What's most beautiful and good about my city, and how can we keep building on these strengths for greater flourishing?
- ❖ What is God's heart for my city?
- ❖ What if families weren't broken, people weren't killed, nobody went hungry, the weak weren't abused, the addicted were set free, the wounded were healed, the warring were at peace, and lies weren't told in my city?
- ❖ What would the apostle Paul say, pray, and do if he were doing ministry in my city?
- ❖ What would my city look like if truth, grace, justice, creativity, and compassion reigned?
- ❖ What if everybody in the city called this place 'my city,' proudly' owning' our city and eagerly seeking its well-being?
- ❖ What if my city worshiped God instead of idols?

MINUTES OF THE CALLED MEETING OF THE CONGREGATION

Memorial Drive Presbyterian Church- October 20, 2024

The Congregational Meeting was called to order in the Chapel of Memorial Drive Presbyterian Church at 8:29 am by the Moderator, Reverend Alf Halvorson. Rev. Halvorson noted that a quorum will be verified in each of the five services and after the final segment of the rolling meeting, to conclude after the Brazilian Presbyterian Church's 6:00pm worship service. He stated that the purpose of the rolling meeting was to vote to elect the Officer Class of 2027 (Elders & Deacons), an Elder and Deacon for the Class of 2025, and the 2025 Nominating Committee. Rev Halvorson then opened the meeting in prayer. He called upon Joe Stockdale, Clerk-Elect and the Moderator of the Nominating Committee, to present the motions to be considered. Joe thanked the congregation for submitting nominations and thanked the 2024 Nominating Committee members for their service. He then presented the following motion:

Motion 1: To elect the presented slate of nominees for the position of Elder, Class of 2027

Carla Bradford	Administration - Clerk Elect-elect
Nikki Pielop	Administration - Personnel Elect-elect
Rosy Pereira	Administration - Treasurer Elect-elect
Hunter Smith	Administration - Generosity
Peggy Samuels	Adult Discipleship- Bible Study
Andre Verona	Intercultural Ministries- BPC
Bob Larson	Caring Ministries
Amanda Austin	Little/Yellow School
Lisa McChristian	Outreach Ministries Local
Kim Oswald	Outreach Ministries Local
Hector Longoria	Worship and Music
Rick Chapman	Youth Ministries-Discipleship

Rev. Halvorson noted that since the motion came from a committee, no second was required. He then asked for nominations from the floor, noting that any one nominated would need to meet the stated qualifications disseminated on the Officer nomination form (membership, giving, involvement and willingness to serve in the specific area). There being no nominations from the floor, a voice vote was taken, and **the motion passed unanimously**.

Joe then presented the next motion:

Motion 2: To elect the presented slate of nominees for the office of Deacon, Class of 2027:

Olga Griffin	Dementia and Caregivers
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David Kemper	Kaleidoscope/Special Blessings
Terral Cesak	Prayer Ministry
Trey McAfee	Relationships- Men
Barbara Mueller	Second Family/Mobile Meals
Harry Tallichet	Welcoming
Mary Chris Peterson	Music-Choir

Rev. Halvorson noted again that since the motion came from a committee, no second was required. He then asked for nominations from the floor, there being none, a voice vote was taken, and **the motion passed unanimously.**

Joe then presented the next motion:

Motion 3: To elect the following to the Class of 2025, fulfilling a one-year term only:

Kelly Handel	Elder: Clerk
Mary Galvan	Deacon: Intercultural Ministries- Fuente

Pastor Alf commented and asked if there were any questions or discussion. There being none, he asked for a voice vote and **the motion passed unanimously.**

Next, Joe presented the final **motion, Motion 4:** To elect the slate of nominees for the 2025 Nominating Committee:

Joe Stockdale	Clerk Elect Moderator
Bob Holloway	Immediate Past Clerk
Amber Caver	At-large
Mariel Braun Fitzhugh	At-large
Sharon Johnson	At-large
Mario Porras	At-large
Jeff Taylor	At-large
Laura Tingleaf	At-large
Carla Bradford	Clerk Elect-elect
Clay Brown	Pastor (Advisory only, not a voting member)
Jennifer Vajdos	Staff (Advisory only, not a voting member)

Pastor Alf asked for a voice vote and the motion passed unanimously. There being no additional business, Pastor Alf asked for a motion to adjourn, which was forthcoming, seconded and unanimously approved. He closed the meeting in prayer. This meeting was repeated after the 9:45 and 11:15 services to conclude three segments of the rolling congregational meeting.

Rev. Guillermo Yela served as the Moderator for the 11:15 Fuente service segment of the meeting with Mario Porras serving as the Nominating Committee Designee making all motions. Rev. Almir Dias served as the Moderator for the 6 pm Brazilian Presbyterian Service segment, with Rev. Beth Case serving as the Designee in Mickey Peter's absence.

Following the BPC service, the fifth segment of the meeting was conducted, and the Rolling Congregational Meeting was adjourned by Rev. Almir Dias at 7:30pm.

Minutes submitted by Jennifer Vajdos on behalf of Bob Holloway, Clerk of Session.

Outreach Ministries Funding Recommendations October 2024

CFH

The Beacon

2023 Funding: \$20,000

2024 Funding Recommendation: \$20,000

The Beacon serves Houston's homeless community through daily services, civil legal aid, counseling and mentoring and access to housing. They provide essential and next-step services with programming including The Day Center, Brigid's Hope, Beacon Law, COMPASS and The Way Home. www.beaconhomeless.org

Star of Hope

2023 Funding: \$25,000

2024 Funding Recommendation: \$25,000

Star of Hope Mission is a Christ-centered community dedicated to meeting the needs of homeless men, women, and their children. In addition to housing, food and clothing, positive life changes are encouraged through structured programs that focus on spiritual growth, education, career/workforce development, life management, counseling, computer training, mental and physical health, and recovery from substance abuse. Star operates through its Men's facility near downtown Houston, and its Cornerstone Community--a Christian women and family development center on Reed Road. sohmission.org

Mission Centers of Houston

2023 Funding: \$30,000 + \$5,000 O&A

2024 Funding Recommendation: \$30,000

Mission Centers of Houston provides for the physical and spiritual needs of people living in the Magnolia Park and Near Northside communities, with work focusing on the eradication of the effects of multigenerational poverty and homelessness. Through ongoing relationships, age-graded programs, and mission partnerships they change lives with the love, mercy, and grace of Jesus Christ. missioncenters.org

Buckner Family Hope Center at Aldine

2023 Funding: \$15,000 + \$6,700 O&A + 983 Mission Market

2024 Funding Recommendation: \$15,000

Designation of Funds: Aldine Location Operations

The Buckner Family Hope Center at Aldine is a child-centered, family-focused place where families go to find hope, support and empowerment to reach their fullest God-given potential. The key to the Family Hope Center's success is found in combining effective programs and passionate people to help families that are experiencing poverty, family issues and a lack of services.

www.buckner.org/houston

The Forge for Families

2023 Funding: \$30,000 + \$8,880 O&A

2024 Funding Recommendation: \$32,500

The Forge for Families fosters a fun, Christ-centered environment through strategic investment and collaboration, to help families in Houston's Third Ward grow educationally, economically, and spiritually. Programs include after school enrichment, mentoring, summer day camp, athletic discipleship, family life and parent enrichment nights. www.forgeforfamilies.org

Outreach Center of West Houston

2023 Funding: \$10,000 + \$6,000 O&A

2024 Funding Recommendation: \$10,000

The Outreach Center of West Houston is a low- to no cost facility for local non-profit organizations. They serve a vital role in the community by providing an affordable home and gathering space to partners that provide life-changing and life-saving programs in west Houston. Current MDPC partners implementing programming here include Family Point Resources and Young Life Westside. www.oc-wh.org

HSN

Easter Seals of Greater Houston

2023 Funding: \$20,000 + \$10,000 Over & Above

2024 Funding Recommendation: \$25,000 (designated: Adult Day program)

Adult Programs of Easter Seals Houston offer recreational opportunities to promote physical, mental, and spiritual health to adults with disabilities through bi-weekly meetings, bowling, fields trips, education, self-advocacy, skills training, and touch-based technology training. These programs offer many clients their only opportunity for socializing and provide re-spite for the adult participants' caregivers. One group meets at MDPC every Monday.

<http://www.eastersealshouston.org>

Prayers of the People

2023 Funding: \$8,000

2024 Funding Recommendation: \$10,000

Established in 1974 from MDPC, POP provides spiritual care and prayer for all faith traditions in the midst of crisis, disease and suffering. Over 135 Lay Chaplains visit patients in over 60 hospitals and healthcare settings across Houston and around the world <http://www.popministry.org>

Senior Rides and More

2023 Funding: \$5,000

2024 Funding Recommendation: \$7,000

The mission of Senior Rides and More is to promote senior independent living, health, and safety by providing free transportation and other services to the frail and elderly in our communities. They organize volunteers to provide one-on-one individualized services, especially free transportation to doctors and clinics, to grocery shops, to pick up prescriptions, and to accomplish other transportation-dependent needs. <https://www.seniorridesandmore.org>

The Rose

2023 Funding: \$15,000

2024 Funding Recommendation: \$20,000

The Rose saves lives through quality breast health services, advocacy and access to care for all, regardless of a patient's ability to pay. The Rose offers same-day diagnosis, on-site physicians dedicated to breast health care, advanced digital technology, and collaboration with the best medical organizations in Texas.

<https://www.therose.org>

Vita Living

2023 Funding: \$18,000

2024 Funding Recommendation: \$25,000

Vita Living offers life-long services and support for children and adults with intellectual and developmental disabilities. They offer residential programming at 18 group homes; a day program that offers residents an opportunity to engage in educational and social activities; and case management services including effective educational plans, lifelong homes, valuable therapies and adaptive aids.

<https://www.vitaliving.org>

DE

The Gathering of Men

2023 Funding: \$6,000

2024 Funding Recommendation: \$6,000

The Gathering of Men brings disciples to maturity in Jesus Christ through outreach and service. Formats for gathering include small groups and large outreach breakfasts.

houstongathering.org

Houston International Seafarers (c/o Presbytery of New Covenant)

2023 Funding: \$35,000 + \$3404 Over and Above

2024 Funding Recommendation: \$35,000

Houston International Seafarers Ministry chaplains minister to seafarers from around the world on ships that dock in the Ports of Houston, Barbours Cut, Galveston, Beaumont, Port Arthur, and Bayport. Chaplains minister to the seafarers at these centers and through ship visits.

houstonseafarers.com

SBH

Blessings in a Backpack

2023 Funding: \$7,410 + \$5,000 Over & Above

2024 Funding Recommendation: \$8,000 (designated: Bayou City Blessings in a Backpack)

Bayou City Blessings in a Backpack mobilizes the local community, individuals and resources to provide food on the weekends and during school breaks for Houston children who might otherwise go hungry. Their mission serves to raise awareness of childhood hunger by building community and establishing relationships with educational partners to improve the lives of Houston children.

www.bayoucityblessings.org

East Spring Branch Food Pantry

2023 Funding: \$10,000 + \$2,143 Mission Market

2024 Funding Recommendation: \$5,000

East Spring Branch Food Pantry is a client choice pantry serving residents in the Spring Branch area with fresh and shelf stable food. Nutrition classes, Food Fairs and Thanksgiving meals are other programs offered. ESBFP is led and run by a team of dedicated volunteers.

www.eastspringbranchfoodpantry.com

Interfaith Ministries – Meals on Wheels & “Animeals”

2023 Funding: \$35,000 (designated: Meal on Wheels)

2024 Funding Recommendation: \$35,000 (designated: Meals on Wheels & “Animeals”)

The Interfaith Ministries’ Meals on Wheels program provides fully prepared, nutritious meals and other assistance to at-risk seniors in Harris, Galveston, and surrounding counties each weekday to ensure seniors remain healthy and independent. Seniors with pets may sign up for the “Animeals” program to receive free pet food and preventative vet care.

www.imgh.org

Global**Evangelical Theological Seminary in Cairo (c/o The Outreach Foundation)**

2023 Funding: \$16,000 + \$10,000 O&A

2024 Funding Recommendation: \$4,000 +(\$16,000 previously approved in May)

Almost all the leaders of the Evangelical Church in Egypt have graduated from the Evangelical Theological Seminary in Cairo (ETSC). The most exciting aspect of the seminary is how it equips students to witness to the Gospel of Jesus in and beyond Egypt amid political and cultural transitions, especially throughout the Middle East and Arabic-speaking world. Pray for the Body of Christ in Egypt, and for ETSC’s leadership and students as they share the love of Jesus.

Strategic Initiatives**Steiger International**

2023 Funding: \$20,000

2024 Funding Recommendation: \$17,500 designated US Operations

\$2,500 Carolina & Josef personal support

Steiger is a rapidly growing, worldwide mission organization that is called to engage and disciple the unchurched global youth of today. Steiger is targeting Houston as a strategic US city with opportunities for our volunteers to train and serve with them to reach young adults in Houston with the Gospel.

Street Grace

2023 Funding: \$65,000

2024 Funding Recommendation: \$65,000 designated Street Grace Houston

Street Grace is a faith-based organization that utilizes evidence-based demand reduction strategies to eradicate the commercial sexual exploitation of children through prevention/protection, policy

and pursuit. Street Grace is collaborating with faith, business and community leaders providing a comprehensive path to end domestic minor sex trafficking in Atlanta, Houston and throughout the United States.

Houston Food Bank

2023 Funding: \$33,000

2024 Funding Recommendation: \$33,000 designated HCC Eagle Pantry & Backpack Buddies

In collaboration with a network of more than 1,600 community partners including pantries, schools, and multi-service centers the HFB helps thousands of individuals each week through innovative programming and services. In 2023, the HFB provided 5 million meals to kids and teens through programs that address childhood hunger. As one of MDPC's strategic partners, the HFB supports many MDPC supported pantry programs, including the Fuente Food Pantry, as well as SBISD's Backpack Buddy Program, and the Food for Change program that produced the Eagle Pantry at Houston Community College's Spring Branch campus.

Alpha USA

2023 Funding: \$25,000

2024 Funding Recommendation: \$10,000 designated Youth Film Series (+15,000 previously approved in August)

AlphaUSA trains, equips, and encourages Christian communities to effectively utilize the Alpha Course as an evangelism tool. This discipleship program is taken to churches, homes, businesses, and, more recently, prisons and jails with the Good News of Jesus Christ.

Combined Minutes of the Session Committees October 2024

Caring Ministries Committee Minutes:

No October meeting, but here are the various ministry reports:

Card-writing:

- The Branches group held its monthly meeting in September to send handwritten notes to MDPC members who had been in the hospital/rehab, lost a loved one, or just needed encouragement.
- The five dedicated Prayer Chain writers took turns writing to those on the Prayer Chain list.

Community Relations

- A team has been formed to start work on a speaker series with broad-based appeal for 2025. Topics include understanding AI, fraud/scam prevention, and mental health concerns, including the impact of social media. Contact Community Relations Deacon, Judy Stockton, at jkstockton@comcast.net with any suggestions for speakers.

Dementia and Caregiver Support:

- **The Gathering Place:** The Gathering met on Wednesday, October 2. The theme was Pumpkins and Halloween. There were 5 care receivers with 3 caregivers, and 6 volunteers. We walked to the choir room for the entertainment of the Grace Notes choir who serenaded the group with familiar songs. There were also puzzles, lunch, and Bingo.
 - Note: more volunteers are needed, so please contact Gathering Place coordinator Susanne McClean (zannymcclean@att.net) to learn more.
- **Caregiver Support Group:** The group meets for lunch at MDPC to support one another on the 3rd Thursday each month. For more information, contact Beverly Fluke or deacon Penny Bryant at phb14@comcast.net.

Grief Support:

- **Transforming Grief:** The fall series of the Transforming Grief program is underway on Monday afternoons, and it will wrap up with a special closing service on November 18. The facilitators are Debra Coole and Marsha Hartsell. Contact Beverly Fluke for more information on plans for the spring series.
- **The Widows Connection:** Continues to meet the third Tuesday of each month at 11:30 AM in room 101. The next lunchtime meeting is November 19, 2024.
- **Ministry of Presence:** Caring Ministries staff and officers send out cards and grief books to MDPC members during their first year of losing a loved one.

Health Ministry -- Blood Drive:

- MDPC will host its next Blood Drive on **Sunday, Oct 27, 10:00am-2:30pm**, in the Fellowship Hall. Donors are encouraged to sign up, but walk-ins are also welcome. We appreciate this partnership with Gulf Coast Regional Blood Center as they serve the greater Houston-area. Debbie Cordell and Nancy Kimmey are profoundly faithful to the opportunity of hosting our donors!

Home Visitation:

- The Home Visitation team, comprised of 12 volunteers, visits over 30 homebound church members every month. We were sad to lose another longtime member on the visitation roster in September, but three more were added.

- If you have a caring heart for our older members, this would be a wonderful ministry in which to get involved. Please contact Jim Newlin, Visitation Deacon, at jnewlin@comcast.net or Beverly Fluke if you would like to join the team or learn more about this ministry.
- Home communion: Anyone who is not able to participate in the regularly scheduled communion services on campus is invited to request home communion. Requests can be made by contacting Jim Newlin, Beverly Fluke or online at homecommunion.mdpc.org.

Memorial Services:

- September – 2 memorial services with receptions at MDPC.

Prayer Ministry:

- Plans have begun for the 2025 **Partner in Prayer** season. Thanks to the diligence of Annette Erickson and Diann Turet, automations have expedited the process of adding new pray-ers and assigning new lists. A letter to all MDPCers will be sent in November. This letter from Rev. Beth Case will invite new participants and provide instructions for receiving new lists in January.
- The MDPC staff continues to pray twice weekly. Each Tuesday and Thursday, a different member of the staff leads in a prayerful or devotional time. Highlights are when we are led by our musicians in songs of prayer and praise.

Second Family:

- Second Family volunteers expended 91 hours to support their care partners during September 2024.
- We currently have 9 care partners and have been busy attending to each one's special needs. We assisted one care partner with doctor appointments and a visit to the hospital for a gel injection in her left knee. One care partner has kept her volunteers very busy with several doctor appointments after falling in her bathroom. One care partner is out of rehabilitation and is back at home with her beloved dog and now has home healthcare to assist her 5 hours a day for 5 days. We are pleased to announce that we have a member of the church with a certified therapy dog, and we already have appointments scheduled for visits with our care partners. Visitation keeps us very busy each month and is most beneficial to check on their health and wellbeing. Several care partners are taken on long walks and to lunch every week with long visitations. Others are taken to the grocery store weekly and others to doctor appointments.
- Mobile meals are being delivered on Mondays and Thursdays of every week and we now have 4 deliveries with 4 stops.

Senior Adult Ministry:

- The monthly Senior Adult newsletter is mailed to about 130 families (September to May). The newsletter contains descriptions of upcoming activities of Venturers, Encore Fellowship, Prime Timers, and Senior Adult Fellowship Lunch. Information for Senior events and activities are also online at seniors.mdpc.org
- **Venturers:** This year's kickoff meeting with 56 attending was on September 16 at Fratelli's Restaurant with Pastor Alf Halvorson speaking about the importance of cities with biblical examples. At the October 7 meeting, 49 heard Charles Denyer talk about G. H. W. Bush and Jim Baker.
- **Encore Fellowship:** On September 20, 27 Encore members went to the Music Box and heard hits of the 60's and 70's. On October 26, 36 plan to go to the Stratford Playhouse to see *Mamma Mia*.
- **Prime Timers:** On September 11, eleven went to the Museum of Fine Arts to see an exhibit of Japan's Meiji era. On October 16, six had lunch at Hungry's Restaurant.
- **Senior Adult Fellowship Lunch:** The monthly Senior Adult Fellowship Lunch is held at MDPC Café to have lunch, meet new friends, and learn more about existing friends. Lunches are on the third Monday of each month. With each lunch meeting, collections, crafts, hobbies, talents, etc. are displayed which Senior Adults

want to share with others. The September 16 meeting featured *Art*. The October 21 lunch will feature *Something You Treasure*.

- We are in the process over several months of mailing postcards and phoning (by several callers) some 450 senior church members to inform them of Seniors Lunch.

Stephen Ministry:

- The Stephen Ministry team met for its supervisory meeting on September 10th and again on September 24th for continuing education. Mehrnaz Gill, guest speaker from Amazing Place, presented an informative talk on Dementia with helpful Q & A afterwards.
- The Stephen leadership team invites referrals for potential care receivers who would benefit from a Stephen Ministry relationship as well as members whose giftedness may make them good candidates to become future Stephen Ministers.

Deacons:

- New Deacons & Elders were approved in a rolling congregational meeting on Sunday, October 20, 2024. They will begin serving in January 2025.

Next CM Meeting: Friendsgiving Potluck on Sunday, November 17, in the home of deacon Nancy Blurton. Deacons and their guests are invited.

Children's Ministries Lead Team Minutes:

October 1, 2024

Committee Members Present:

Keri Mosk, Mayra Escamilla, Heather Tackett, Laura Tingleaf, Ellen Davidson, Kristin Anderson, Lenora Oliveira, and Ginny French

The devotional was provided by Laura Tingleaf.

- **Elementary Update** – Faith Walk was very successful. First Communion will be October 6th on World Communion Day. A Bible Retreat for 3rd graders will be held on November 3rd from 12:30pm to 2:00pm. The focus will be on teaching the kids how to use the bible. 3rd grade bibles will be given on November 17th.
- **Preschool Update**- More volunteers are still needed. Worship at both 9:45am and 11:15am is going well. After worship, the kids are taught a bible story and make a craft related to the bible story. Movie night for preschool families will be on October 18th. The movie will be Toy Story 1.
- **Childcare Plus Update**- PNO will be November 9th.
- **Kaleidoscope/Safe Haven Update** –The Special Needs Mom Book Club started and will run for 6 weeks. Family Camp weekend for Kaleidoscope and Safe Haven will be October 18th at Camp for All. The available coordinator position will be posted. The responsibilities will include running Kaleidoscope every Sunday during the 9:45 and 11:15 services, running Parents Night Out, and planning family camp every October.
- **The Little School/ Yellow School Update** – The little school's annual Baby Drive is scheduled for November 4-8 to help support teen moms in SBISD. New family registration will be on December 6 at 6:00am. The registration will be online through the website. Picture day is this week, and we are using a new company called Lifetouch Photography. Spirit Night for Yellow School will be October 15 at Mia's Table. 20% of each order will be given back when you mention the Yellow School between 11:00am and 9:00pm. Grandparent Day is October 24 & 25. Vision and hearing screenings will be held at the end of the month. A costume parade is also scheduled for the end of the month.

- **Fuente-** no one was present to provide the update.
 - **BPC Update** – Only 5 kids attended last Sunday. An end of year celebration with volunteers will be held on December 6.
- Next Meeting** – November 12, 2024

Finance Committee Minutes:

Sep 16, 2024

The meeting was opened in prayer by Bob Holloway at about 5:19

There was a quorum present, with the following people in attendance: Marcus Vajdos, Dena Bankett, Bob Holloway, Bob Davis, Chris Arend, Kyle Wienert, Tom Braschayko, Matt Fleming. Mandy Todd and Rosy Pereira attended online.

The Aug 2024 Minutes are to be reviewed by members with any comments forwarded as needed.

Bob Davis and Marcus led the meeting, and we discussed the following topics:

1. The Monthly budgets were discussed with Partners contributions currently coming in approx. \$1.07 million ahead of budget. Marcus pointed out that in discussions with Ava, that as of this point last year, 51% of pledges had been given through July, and as of this year, we have received 55% of pledged donations. We believe that this year people are giving earlier in the year and more ratably instead of donating more towards the end of the year. We will continue to monitor the donations as compared to the pledged amounts. The rest of the expenses are coming in as budgeted except for the Facilities and Tech which was previously discussed as we have incurred a larger expense for onsite safety officers.
2. Marcus then updated us on the timing of the 4 projects currently happening on the campus. The restroom remodels are open and down to just punch list items to clear up. The pickleball courts are delayed due to concrete slab curing but will be progressing throughout the month. The Monument signs will be installed in early October, and the CLC roof replacement will also be starting early October.
3. Marcus then reviewed the various accounts from the Balance Sheet to see where we could clean up, consolidate or spend the money in these accounts.
 - We currently have \$4.6 million in the Legacy unrestricted account
 - The Memorials Fund account has \$123k, which we have agreed will be spent over the next few years to cover the maintenance and repair costs of the main organ which is expected to cost approx. \$250k.
 - The Ministers Retirement fund has approx. \$336 invested all in the TPF, and this is operating well.
 - The schools grant will go to zero in the next 1.5 years as we continue to use, expense, and account for the grants given during Covid
 - The Teaching Church fund is being used to pay for Maya and Luke Funderburk salary.
 - The Senior pastor fund started at \$250k and has grown over the years due to income earned at TPF. This is for Alf to spend on his projects.
 - Youth Trust, we will continue to look at opportunities to spend this on the youth and their activities.
 - Admin special gift, we currently use \$25-40k per year on admin expenses.
4. 2025 Budget – Marcus will start to with the staff for their input on suggested budgets. He will also ask them for suggestions on ways to save money and ask them for their wishes list. The process of budget review and approval will be like the 2024 budget process.

Chris Arend closed us in prayer at 6:42

Generosity Committee Minutes:

Wednesday, Aug 14, 2024

Prepared by Ginny Glass

In attendance: Bill Swenson, Jeannie Able, Ava Caliendo, Michael McCormack, Nathan Stedham, Joe Stockdale, Hunter Smith, Marcus Vajdos, and Ginny Glass

Absent: Chris Arend, Kate Brock, Colby Mueck, and Alf Halvorson

Bill Swenson opened the meeting in prayer.

Ginny presented the covenant package print materials for review by the committee. Items approved with one small addition. Generosity season videos will play in worship on Oct 20 and 27.

Michael led a discussion of his 2025 goals for the Generosity Committee, including goals for new member pledging, annual giving increases, and adding additional educational opportunities to help congregants better understand pledging. More fine tuning to come.

Marcus reported that we are in a good position financially regarding the 2024 budget, as we are ahead in percentage of budget compared to previous years.

Continued the discussion about the National Christian Foundation. Colby will set up a meeting with him, Michael, and Marcus to meet with Trey Little to discuss ways for Trey to help review our online presence and make other suggestions to inform and educate our membership about giving more efficiently.

Discussed how MDPC manages disaster relief assistance and suggested a review of the policy as it relates to outreach giving.

Ava gave an updated financial report. The addition of another physical offering each month has resulted in more cash collected with no reduction in check or online giving.

Covenant Sunday will be Nov 3; time-change Sunday.

Next Generosity Meeting is Nov 13. Committee lunch in December TBD.

Outreach Committee Minutes:

Monday, October 21, 2024

Attendees: Tom Braschayko, Mariel Fitzhugh, Amy Delgado, Jennifer Fernelius, Marc Laney, Julie LaRue, Kelsi McCormack, Mike Pelton, Sharon Roark, Joe Stockdale, Kyle Wienert

- I. Devotional from Jesus Calling and Dinner *Sharon Roark*
 - II. Introduction *Tom Braschayko*
 - III. Committee Reports: Funding Recommendations & Meeting Debriefs
 - A. Health and Special Needs *Marc Laney*
 1. Easter Seals of Greater Houston - \$25,000 (designated: Adult day program)
 2. Prayers of the People - \$10,000
 3. Senior Rides and More - \$7,000
 4. The Rose - \$20,000
 5. Vita Living - \$25,000
- Motion:** Approve the partners gift as presented

Vote: Approved

B. Discipleship and Education

Jennifer Fernelius

1. The Gathering of Men - \$6,000
2. Presbytery of New Covenant - \$35,000 (designated: Houston International Seafarers' Ministry)

Motion: Approve the partners gift as presented

Vote: Approved

C. Spring Branch and Hunger

Mike Pelton

1. Blessings in a Backpack - \$8,000 (designated: Bayou City Blessings in a Backpack)
2. East Spring Branch Food Pantry - \$5,000
3. Interfaith Ministries – \$35,000 (designated: Meals on Wheels & “Animeals”)

Motion: Approve the partners gift as presented

Vote: Approved

D. Children Families and Housing

Mariel Fitzhugh

1. The Beacon - \$20,000
2. Star of Hope - \$25,000
3. Mission Centers of Houston - \$30,000
4. Buckner Children & Family Services - \$15,000 (designated: Aldine location)
5. The Forge for Families – \$32,500
6. Outreach Center of West Houston - \$10,000

Motion: Approve the partners gift as presented

Vote: Approved

E. Global

Sharon Roark

1. The Outreach Foundation - \$4,000 (designated: Evangelical Theological Seminary in Cairo)

Motion: Approve the partner gift as presented

Vote: Approved

IV. Review of the Committee proposed Mission Market Partners.

Motion: Approve the proposed partners listed below for Mission Market gifts

Vote: Approved

Local	
Committee	Partner
CFH	Open Door Mission
	Casa de Esperanza de los Ninos
DE	Camp for All
	Bridges to Life
HSN	Casa El Buen Samaritano
	Joy Ride Center
SBH	Local Infant Formula for Emergencies (L.I.F.E.)
	Bayou City Blessings in a Backpack

Global
The Antioch Partners
Faith in Practice
Free Wheelchair Mission
Living Water International
Lulwanda Children's Home
The Micah Project
Pars Theological Centre

V. Proposed Christmas Eve offering

2024 recipients – Missionary partners

- Urban Catalyst, designated: Justin Elder
- The Antioch Partners, designated: Andrew & Teri Adair
- Frontier Fellowship, designated: Biru
- CRU, designated: Missionary #0638840
- Send International, designated: Hall Family
- Frontiers, designated: Missionary #004554
- Frontier Fellowship, designated: Huffman
- YWAM, designated: Johnson

- Allegro, designated: #Nyc-BB.KSJ
- The Antioch Partners, designated: Leina & Salam
- Action International Ministries, designated: #47001
- Frontier Fellowship, designated: McNerney
- Pioneers, designated: #112440
- Novo Mission, designated: #6781 Zovak

Motion: Approve the above listed missionary partners to receive the Christmas Eve Offering

Vote: Approved

VI. Next meeting: December 9th

Discussion about meeting schedule. This committee will not meet in November to allow additional time for the five Committees to gather and prioritize partner end-of-year gift opportunities. The next meeting will take place on December 9th 2024.

A. Assignments due prior to the next meeting:

1. Individual Committee Over and Above project(s) priority ranking. *Use spreadsheet template and send to Kelsi McCormack*
Due Date: *first week of December, deadline December 6th*

Revisions (if any) to Partner Summary Descriptions; *Send to Julie LaRue and Kelsi McCormack*
Due Date: 11 Nov

B. Meeting Agenda - December

- Dinner and Devotional volunteer – Mariel Braun
- Assign priorities to Combined Committees' Over and Above projects list

VII. Staff reports

A. Local

Julie LaRue

1. ["Thanksgiving Meal in a Bag"](#) Began distribution last Sunday, will collect returned bags through November 17th.
2. ["Bless Friday"](#) is November 29th, led by Chuck Fox and Julie LaRue. Registration for the various opportunities will go live soon.

B. Global

Kelsi McCormack

1. [Saudi Arabia Vision Trip 8-17 Nov](#) – Kelsi McCormack will join Global Outreach directors from other churches to meet with church leaders and an MDPC partner.
2. [PARS Vision Trip to Istanbul 15-24 Nov](#) – MDPC covenant partners are invited to participate in a formation conference to provide theological education and leadership development to the underground Iranian church

C. General

Amy Delgado

1. Discussion of the creation of Strategic Initiatives Committee. Team will consist of Outreach Directors, Evangelism Pastor, the Outreach Moderator, one At-Large member, and Alf Halvorson as the approving body. This team met recently (minus Alf who was in China) to review and approve the following partner gifts: Steiger International \$20,000 (\$17,500 for operating, \$2,500 for missionary support for Carolina/Jozef), Street Grace \$65,000 (designated for Street Grace Houston), Houston Food Bank (designated for Eagle Food Pantry, Backpack Buddies), Alpha USA \$ 10,000 (designated for Alpha Youth Series video).

2. Discussion of proposal to move Alpha USA from the Discipleship & Education Committee to the Strategic Initiatives Committee due to the nature of our relationship and oversight by Dan in his Evangelism role. Jennifer Fernelius (DE Committee Elder) was in agreement.

Motion: Move partner oversight from DE Committee to the SI Committee

Vote: Approved

3. **Disaster Relief**

In light of recent hurricanes across the Southeastern states of the U.S., MDPC has given a gift to Samaritan's Purse for relief in North Carolina. There is still a sizable amount of budgeted Outreach funding that is not earmarked but needs to be spent before the end of the year. Our Outreach staff requests approval to spend up to \$200,000 of these funds with the idea of supporting local churches and ideally faith-based organizations to assist at the individual level to help families impacted by these recent hurricanes. Our heart is to help local churches build relationships by assisting those in their communities.

Motion: To spend up to \$200,000 for disaster relief

Vote: Approved

VIII. Closing Prayer

Tom Braschayko

** Our Moderator, Tom Braschayko, will be away for our next and final Outreach meeting of 2024. The staff and elders wish to thank Tom for his tremendous leadership as our Moderator this year. We are grateful to God for his leadership this year and service as our elder.

Young Adult Committee Minutes:

September 15th, 2024, | 12:15 -2pm | MDPC Room 122- Next Meeting October 27th, 2024

Icebreaker: Matthew led the group in an effective icebreaker activity where members had the chance to share their fears.

Devotional: Matthew delivered a devotional based on Mark 12:28-34, emphasizing the importance of love in Jesus' teachings. He highlighted how Jesus prioritizes and simplifies the law by focusing on the commands to love God and love one's neighbor. This approach shows that love is the lens through which all other commandments are understood and fulfilled.

Items Discussed:

1. **Welcome Matthew to the Team:** The group welcomed Matthew, who has recently joined MDPC YA Staff Team as our College Discipleship Director.
2. **YA Lead Team Connection:** The group decided to have a connection morning on September 21st at 10:30am. The location will be discussed and communicated via the SMS group chat.
3. **YA Men's Events:** Luke and Matthew will explore options for hosting a YA men's event, including deciding on the location, date, and time. They will inform Sally so she can add it to the YA events agenda and share it on social channels.
4. **Worship Night Team Update (Why | When | Who | How):** Sally shared her vision for team responsibilities, and the following assignments were decided:
 - o Table Setup: Megan and Sally
 - o Final Touches, including Food/Drinks and Cleanup: Edneia and Nicholas
 - o Greeters (arrive at MDPC by 6:40 PM): All Lead Team members

- Table Hosts (average of 5) - Facilitate table discussion after the message: Luke, Georgia, and Matthew
5. **YA Connect Table - Sunday Morning (Sign Up):** Edneia and Sally explained the purpose and accountability of the connect table, which is to engage with the church between worship services. Sally, Matthew, and Edneia will handle setup and cleanup, with table hosts serving from 10:45 to 11:15. The group signed up to support as their schedules allow, and Edneia will include it on Signup Genius for email reminders.
- YAs were asked to brainstorm a creative way they can connect with MDPC members at the table with their co-leader the week they sign up. YA Lead Team members can let Sally or Edneia know of their needs and how we can support. (Example: white board with a trivia question or fun fact that allows people to engage/respond)
6. **Upcoming Events Planning (Sep/Oct):** The group reviewed upcoming events, and Sally outlined the lead team support needed for each. Support generally includes participation, prayer, sharing the events within personal communities, and inviting friends.

Ideas and Suggestions:

- Matthew asked if there were any suggestions for enhancing the YA ministry. The group discussed:
 - Sharing YA events at MDP to let people know about YA ministry opportunities.
 - Creating events to connect English, Fuente, and Brazilian communities, such as a worship night that includes BPC + Fuente musicians for the worship team.
 - Luke shared an idea for a potential Spring Semester Discussion Group class at MDPC calling it "Beyond the Bible." or something of this nature. The idea would be a short series exploring the Bible with discussions on modern life, possibly a 12-week series based on a theme or book. (Harry Potter, Lord of the Rings, Narnia, Star Wars etc.)
 - Connecting with other young adults through sports, with Luke and Georgia to explore this idea and share details with Sally.
 - Creating an emergency response community for hurricane season and other disasters to stay connected and support one another. Sally noted that MDPC's program team is exploring this and welcomed feedback and ideas. The group agreed to send ideas directly to Sally.
 - YAs enjoyed attending Noche De Sabor and engaging with young adults and others from Fuente and BPC. It was positive to see young adults from Fuente connecting with MDPC young adults and desiring to attend Bible Studies and future events. YA Lead Team talked about ways in which we can work together to support the individual congregations but also plan ways to be together while creating an authentic space for all cultures and people.
 - Fuente/MDPC tutoring sessions – teach/learn English + Spanish
 - YA Mentorship Program is open and accepting applications for BOTH mentors and mentees
 - Praying about inviting a BPC rep to join YA Lead Team to help us learn more about needs, culture, scheduling logistics etc.
 - A lot of evenings seem to be full of YA Bible Study classes. This does not leave a ton of room for one-off events earlier in the week. Right now, Thursday, Friday and Saturday are open. When planning for the Spring Semester, let's revisit this and discover healthy rhythms that we can create.

Next Meeting: The next YA lead team meeting is scheduled for October 27th at MDPC.

Closing: Edneia closed the meeting by thanking the group for their contributions and encouraging them to stay connected and care for one another throughout the week.

Closing Prayer: Georgia wrapped up the meeting with a prayer, emphasizing the team's spiritual unity.