



SESSION DOCUMENTS

Mon, May 20, 2024

Memorial Drive Presbyterian Church

Loving God. Proclaiming Christ. Living Generously. Engaging All.

Session Meeting Agenda

May 20, 2024



Strategic Goals

2023-2028



1. **Call to Order and Opening Prayer** (Beth Case)
2. **Establishment of Quorum** (Bob Holloway)
3. **Beatitude Series** (Alf Halvorson)
4. **Clerk's Report** (Bob Holloway and Laura Miller)
 - a. Report on April 26th Meeting of the Texas Presbytery
 - b. Officer Nominations/Job Descriptions
5. **ECO Ordination Candidate**- Blake Swoboda
Motion to receive Blake Swoboda as an Inquirer for ECO Ordination Candidacy.
6. **Finance Report** (Bob Davis and Marcus Vajdos)
7. **Legacy Report and Updated Approvals** (Marcus Vajdos)
Motion for Session approval of 1.7M for the following projects:
Bathrooms in Ministry Center (4), Pickleball Courts, CLC Roof, LED Monument Signs, Exterior Signs

8. Omnibus Agenda

- a. **Motion** to approve the minutes of the April 22, 2024, Session Meeting.
- b. **Motion** to approve the following Baptisms performed in May 2024:

Name	Age	Parents	Member	Date
Anna Jane Ormond	Child	Katherine and Eric Ormond	Mom-Yes Dad-Yes	5/12/2024 Sprinkle
Harris James Ormond	Infant	Katherine and Eric Ormond	Mom-Yes Dad-Yes	5/12/2024 Sprinkle
Mary Frances Hills Warren	Infant	Hannah Tucker and Cody Warren	Mom-Yes Dad-Yes	5/12/2024 Sprinkle
Whitman Fielder Warren	Infant	Hannah Tucker and Cody Warren	Mom-Yes Dad-Yes	5/12/2024 Sprinkle
Zacharty Evans Cooper	Youth	Maren and Jason Cooper	Mom-Yes Dad-Yes	5/12/2024 Immersion
Palmer Lucille Lewis	Youth	Emily Mayfield and Norman Lewis	Mom-No Dad-No	5/12/2024 Immersion
George Hollbrook Lewis	Youth	Emily Mayfield and Norman Lewis	Mom-No Dad-No	5/12/2024 Immersion
Brooke Sheryl Shive	Youth	Dee Burnee and Bradley Shive	Mom-Yes Dad-Yes	5/12/2024 Immersion
Luke Francis Verbeke	Youth	Lisa Nichols and Peter Verbeke	Mom-No Dad-No	5/12/2024 Immersion

- c. **Motion** to approve Outreach Partner Funding for May as follows:

Consent Agenda items:

Partner Funding Recommendations		Designated	
Casa de Esperanza de Los Ninos	\$15,000	Home Operating Funds	CFH
Family Point Resources	\$30,000		CFH
Prestige Learning Institute	\$15,000		CFH
Yellowstone Academy	\$15,000	K-5 Program	CFH
Camp Aranzazu	\$20,000	Scholarships for Houston Partners	DE
Camp Blessing	\$25,000		DE
Cho Yeh Camp and Conference Center	\$50,000	Camper Scholarships	DE
Presbyterian Mo Ranch Assembly	\$12,000	Camp in the Valley	DE

Stoney Creek Ranch	\$25,000	Summer Urban Initiative	DE
Casa El Buen Samaritano	\$40,000		HSN
Hope and Healing Center	\$10,000		HSN
Be An Angel	\$30,000	Hearing Aids / Adaptive Equipment	HSN
LIFE Houston	\$15,000	Purchase Formula	SBH
Nabor House Community	\$15,000		SBH
RaiseUp Families	\$25,000		SBH
Urban Outreach	\$40,000		SBH
The Outreach Foundation	\$16,000	Evangelical Theological Seminary in Cairo	Global
The Outreach Foundation	\$20,000	Evangelical Theological Seminary in Cairo - New Faculty Apartments	Global
Faith in Practice	\$30,000		Global
Faith Ministry	\$30,000		Global
The Micah Project	\$60,000		Global
Forum for Leadership and Reconciliation	\$20,000	Renewing Our Minds	Global
Totaling:	\$558,000		

Year to Date: \$1,015,250

9. Calendar Reminders

May 19	Alf Halvorson Preaching
May 20	Session Meeting
May 26	Alf Halvorson Preaching Memorial Day Weekend
June 2	Alf Halvorson Preaching
June 9	Brett Hurst Preaching
June 16	Beth Case Preaching Father's Day
June 23	Alf Halvorson Preaching
June 24	Session Meeting

Remaining 2024 Session Meeting Dates

June 24
July -No Meeting
August 26
September 23
October 28
November- No Meeting
December 16

10. Announcements and Additional Business

11. Adjournment

Motion to adjourn the May 2024 Session Meeting.

12. Prayer (Rachel Poysky)

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

Name	Month to Month			April 2023
	April 2024	March 2024	Difference	
ASSETS				
Unrestricted Cash & Cash Equivalents	5,184,969.88	5,457,206.04	(272,236.16)	5,807,427.29
Current Investments (Unrestricted)	2,195,291.01	2,296,315.44	(101,024.43)	1,983,971.07
Total Unrestricted Cash & Cash Equivalents	7,380,260.89	7,753,521.48	(373,260.59)	7,791,398.36
Current Investments (Restricted)	2,575,200.67	2,575,200.67	-	2,216,507.48
Legacy Restricted Cash & Equivalents	4,644,944.41	4,644,944.41	-	4,221,969.18
Total Restricted Cash & Equivalents	7,220,145.08	7,220,145.08	-	6,438,476.66
Prepaid Expense, Deposits, Inventory	334,198.36	335,036.04	(837.68)	169,131.36
Miscellaneous Receivables	12,670.81	13,463.81	(793.00)	226,278.91
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	22,990,663.38	23,365,554.65	(374,891.27)	22,923,401.17
LIABILITIES				
Accounts Payable	368,750.85	363,007.39	5,743.46	762,966.97
Other Payables	87,516.81	86,156.46	1,360.35	60,814.47
Prepaid Tuition and Fees	139,400.00	138,395.00	1,005.00	323,493.53
Custodial Accounts	37,302.12	37,362.62	(60.50)	48,092.76
Note Payable-PNC /PPP	-	-	-	-
TOTAL LIABILITIES	632,969.78	624,921.47	8,048.31	1,195,367.73
NET ASSETS				
Unrestricted Net Assets	13,372,672.16	13,698,090.26	(325,418.10)	14,229,771.78
Temp. Restricted Net Assets	3,009,136.28	3,075,073.56	(65,937.28)	2,342,478.36
Perm. Restricted Net Assets	433,857.59	433,857.59	-	433,857.59
Restricted Legacy Net Assets	5,542,027.57	5,533,611.77	8,415.80	4,721,925.71
TOTAL NET ASSETS	22,357,693.60	22,740,633.18	(382,939.58)	21,728,033.44
TOTAL LIABILITIES & NET ASSETS	22,990,663.38	23,365,554.65	(374,891.27)	22,923,401.17

Budgeted Financial Statement for Period 4 - April
SUMMARY INCOME & EXPENSE - 2024
Company#: 1 Name: Memorial Drive Presbyterian Church
Fiscal Year Beginning 1/1/2024

Description	Apr-24	2024 Actual		2024 Budget YTD	Over (Under)		% Variance		2023 Actual YTD	Budget 2024 Full Year
		YTD			Budget	YTD				
OPERATING INCOME										
Contributions	\$ 1,024,383	\$ 4,425,003	\$ 3,590,154	\$ 834,849	23.25%	\$ 3,456,847	\$ 13,719,797			
Ministry Events Revenue	\$ 236,718	\$ 1,189,352	\$ 1,183,460	\$ 5,892	0.50%	\$ 1,197,108	\$ 3,061,907			
Other Operating Income	\$ 15,890	\$ 237,672	\$ 33,333	\$ 204,339	613.02%	\$ 150,385	\$ 100,000			
TOTAL OPERATING INCOME	\$ 1,276,991	\$ 5,852,028	\$ 4,806,948	\$ 1,045,080	21.74%	\$ 4,804,340	\$ 16,881,704			
Ministry Operating Expense										
Pastoral Ministry										
Caring Ministry	\$ 33,866	\$ 136,020	\$ 151,582	\$ (15,562)	-10.27%	\$ 138,335	\$ 448,929			
Fuente	\$ 13,667	\$ 55,800	\$ 34,868	\$ 20,931	60.03%	\$ 15,883	\$ 106,765			
Children's Ministry	\$ 66,775	\$ 252,443	\$ 287,024	\$ (34,581)	-12.05%	\$ 244,470	\$ 885,876			
Youth Ministry	\$ 52,952	\$ 169,871	\$ 187,680	\$ (17,809)	-9.49%	\$ 174,228	\$ 567,216			
Relationships	\$ 29,423	\$ 125,697	\$ 139,145	\$ (13,448)	-9.66%	\$ 129,438	\$ 393,813			
Sports and REACH Programs	\$ 28,098	\$ 154,101	\$ 137,439	\$ 16,663	12.12%	\$ 137,792	\$ 417,441			
Outreach (Admin)	\$ 55,356	\$ 218,409	\$ 204,610	\$ 13,799	6.74%	\$ 188,232	\$ 607,660			
Adult Discipleship	\$ 35,545	\$ 132,468	\$ 134,485	\$ (2,017)	-1.50%	\$ 112,458	\$ 403,494			
Young Adult	\$ 12,676	\$ 42,034	\$ 71,817	\$ (29,783)	-41.47%	\$ 105,986	\$ 213,538			
Worship	\$ 41,481	\$ 174,020	\$ 181,581	\$ (7,561)	-4.16%	\$ 131,610	\$ 529,786			
Traditional Music	\$ 38,720	\$ 165,948	\$ 140,153	\$ 25,795	18.41%	\$ 142,946	\$ 426,904			
Contemporary Music	\$ 33,492	\$ 115,807	\$ 111,699	\$ 4,108	3.68%	\$ 104,714	\$ 337,296			
Brazilian Ministry	\$ 13,522	\$ 63,370	\$ 65,876	\$ (2,506)	-3.80%	\$ 48,508	\$ 197,624			
Total Pastoral Ministry	\$ 455,572	\$ 1,805,988	\$ 1,847,958	\$ (41,970)	-2.27%	\$ 1,674,600	\$ 5,536,342			
Support Ministry										
Communications & Media	\$ 88,749	\$ 326,931	\$ 301,767	\$ 25,165	8.34%	\$ 300,572	\$ 905,300			
Administration	\$ 76,959	\$ 278,360	\$ 265,172	\$ 13,188	4.97%	\$ 319,987	\$ 820,741			
Food Service	\$ 12,696	\$ 51,753	\$ 51,667	\$ 86	0.17%	\$ 33,183	\$ 155,000			
Facilities & Technology	\$ 268,778	\$ 956,702	\$ 783,184	\$ 173,518	22.16%	\$ 728,922	\$ 2,380,816			
The Little School	\$ 105,995	\$ 412,183	\$ 412,107	\$ 76	0.02%	\$ 379,881	\$ 1,255,145			
The Yellow School	\$ 73,261	\$ 268,048	\$ 256,019	\$ 12,029	4.70%	\$ 273,491	\$ 758,233			
Total Support Ministry	\$ 626,438	\$ 2,293,977	\$ 2,069,915	\$ 224,061	10.82%	\$ 2,036,036	\$ 6,275,235			
Anticipated Budget Reduction	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	#DIV/0!	\$ -	\$ -			
Total Ministry Operating Expense	\$ 1,082,010	\$ 4,099,965	\$ 3,917,874	\$ 182,091	4.65%	\$ 3,710,636	\$ 11,811,577			
Outreach Expense										
Outreach - Ministry Sponsored	\$ 79,548	\$ 301,913	\$ 377,906	\$ (75,992.69)	-0.20%	\$ 319,919	\$ 1,293,639			
Outreach - Ministry Partners	\$ 383,000	\$ 458,281	\$ 517,800	\$ (59,519.23)	-0.11%	\$ 417,429	\$ 3,181,488			
Total Outreach Expense	\$ 462,548	\$ 760,194	\$ 895,706	\$ (135,511.92)	-0.15%	\$ 737,348	\$ 4,475,127			
Other Operating Expense										
Insurance & Legal	\$ 53,684	\$ 185,086	\$ 181,667	\$ 3,420	1.88%	\$ 121,493	\$ 545,000			
Capital Additions/Reserve	\$ 4,167	\$ 16,667	\$ 16,667	\$ -	0.00%	\$ 16,667	\$ 50,000			
Total Other Operating Expense	\$ 57,850	\$ 201,753	\$ 198,333	\$ 3,420	1.72%	\$ 138,160	\$ 595,000			
TOTAL OPERATING EXPENSES	\$ 1,602,409	\$ 5,061,912	\$ 5,011,913	\$ 49,999	1.00%	\$ 4,586,143	\$ 16,881,704			
Other Income(Loss)										
Total Other Income(Loss)	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	0%	\$ -	\$ -			
NET INCOME (LOSS)	\$ (325,418)	\$ 790,116	\$ (204,965)	\$ 995,081	-485.49%	\$ 218,197	\$ 0			
Restr & Enrichment Inc/(Exp)	\$ (57,521)	\$ 657,727	\$ -	\$ 657,727	0%	\$ 350,129	\$ -			

MINUTES OF THE STATED MEETING OF THE SESSION
Memorial Drive Presbyterian Church
April 22, 2024

Elders Present: Jeannie Able, Chris Arend, Sandy Ballard, Rick Bradford, Tom Braschayko, Ellen Davidson, Bob Davis, Stephanie Espinoza, Jennifer Fernelius, Ginny French, Bob Holloway, Alex Knoop, Michael Kringel, Sara Kuhn, Marc Laney, Tarryn Lankford, Madison Limbacher, Laura Miller, Rafael Moreira, Christina Morse, Mike Pelton, Kathy Redden, Sharon Roark, David Shelfer, Dillon Shindler, Nathan Stedham, Joe Stockdale, Bill Swenson, Jeff Taylor, Ryan Taylor, Mandy Todd, Kyle Wienert

Elders Excused: Mariel Braun, Stefano Lugo-Doval, Michael McCormack, Leslie Sloan, Mat Yelvington

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

Other Staff Present: Dena Bankett, Carter Bliss, Amy Delgado, Beverly Fluke, Meliza Gomez, Sally Henien, Ashley Michels, Amanda Shockley, 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: 32pm in the Chapel. She acknowledged our visitors from Merriam Holt, as well as Stella, a pastoral candidate from Grace Presbyterian. Beth opened us with a reading starting in John 6:5 (Christ feeding the people) and then prayer.

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

Clerk's Report: (Bob Holloway)

Motion amended to approve Ginny French, Marc Laney, and Laura Miller as Commissioners for the April 26th, 10 am, online meeting of the Texas Presbytery. **Motion Carries.**

Beth noted we can have up to seven commissioners representing us, which is equal to the number of ECO Pastors at MDPC. Please reach out to Jennifer if you can join on the 26th!

ECO Ordination Candidate- Sally Henien

Rather than a visit from Blake Swoboda, we instead had Sally Henein, our YA Director, with us to share her upbringing, her story of faith, and next steps. Beth noted that we should be mentoring the next generation of pastoral candidates and with that Sally is entering her first phase, what PCUSA called the Inquirer stage, and Sally is interviewing us too. After Sally shared, we spent time opening the floor for questions and affirmations of Sally. We also clarified some next steps in the process. Sally left the room for further private discussion, and we voted on a **Motion to receive Sally Henien as an Inquirer for ECO Ordination Candidacy. Motion was unanimously approved.** Sally was called back in, congratulated, and prayed over by Rachel.

Finance Report: (Chris Arend and Marcus Vajdos)

Marcus reviewed the Monthly Contributions Graph and the highlights of the Financial Statements.

Chris Arend, Treasurer-Elect, provided a Property Insurance Update. He and those in the Treasurer chain have been trying to determine their role :1) helping to mitigate risk, 2) helping with checks and balances, 3) providing transparency. This is one of the larger expenses that we incur as a church, thus a reason to bring it to Session mainly for transparency. We have insurance to be prepared. Insurance is going up and we have budgeted an increase. We have people asking the right questions. Deductibles and claims are the two drivers- the good news is that we have cash reserves, and we can handle the deductibles. 1.5 million earmarked up to 2.5 mm deductible. Staff and elders all have a play in this- claims are serious when they happen, but if we can follow policy, we protect ourselves and limit exposure and at the end of the day costs can go down. We want to use the means God has provided us and be good stewards. There is no motion today, just being transparent. Reach out to the Treasurer team with any questions!

Master Facility Plan Update and Approval: (Marcus Vajdos)

Katherine Tees and Jim Powell were with us from Merriman Holt and presented a very thorough proposal. Please note the full presentation is available on Officer Resources.

Motion to accept proposal from Merriman Holt Powell updating the MDPC Master Plan. Funding will be from MDPC Legacy Funds with an expected cost of \$50,000. **Motion Carries.**

Omnibus Agenda:

Beth introduced the Omnibus Motion below for April. She asked if there were any items that needed to be removed for separate consideration. 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 March 25, 2024, Session Meeting.

b. **Motion** to approve the following baptisms performed in April 2024:

Name	Age	Parents	Member	Date
Marigold Louise Bass	Infant	Annie and Benjamin Bass	Mom-Yes Dad-Yes	4/21/2024
Margaret "Mae" Drew Miller	Child	Laura and Andrew Miller	Mom-Yes Dad-Yes	4/21/2024
Maximilan Welles Miller	Child	Laura and Andrew Miller	Mom-Yes Dad-Yes	4/21/2024
Nielsen	Infant	Nina Williams and Matthew Aubert Guere	Mom-Yes Dad-Yes	4/21/2024
Jack Stephen Owen	Infant	Rebecca Little and William Owen	Mom-Yes Dad-No	4/21/2024
Brooks Thompson Price	Infant	Kesley and Sam Price	Mom-Yes Dad-Yes	4/21/2024
Charlotte Claire Stockard	Infant	Brittney and Travis Stockard	Mom-Yes Dad-No	4/21/2024
Nancy Vickers	Adult	n/a- Adult Faith Reaffirmation	Yes	4/21/2024

c. **Motion** to approve Outreach Partner Funding for April as follows:

Consent Agenda items:

Partner Funding Recommendations		Designated	
Agape Development Ministries	\$40,000		CFH
Generation One	\$30,000		CFH
Small Steps Nuturing Center	\$20,000		CFH
Camp for All	\$10,000		DE
Cornerstone Family Ministries	\$35,000		SBH
Gracewood	\$20,000		SBH
Memorial Assistance Ministries	\$20,000	English Literacy Program	SBH
Santa Maria Hostel	\$15,000		SBH
Spring Branch Community Health Center	\$30,000	Patient Care Operations	SBH
Spring Branch Community Health Center	\$50,000	Pharmacy	SBH
The Antioch Partners	\$35,000		Global
Grace International Children's Foundation	\$27,000	Lulwanda Children's Home	Global
The Outreach Foundation	\$7,000		Global

Cru	\$5,500	Designated: Missionary #0638840	Global Missionary
Steven & Natalie Hall	\$11,000	Designated: Personal Support	Global Missionary
Allegro Organizational Solutions	\$5,500	Designated: Acct# NYC-BB.KSJ	Global Missionary
Action International Ministries	\$11,000	Designated: Acct# 47001	Global Missionary
Novo	\$11,000	Designated: Acct# 6781 Zovak	Global Missionary
	Totaling:	\$383,000	
	Year to Date:	\$457,250	

Announcements and Additional Business

Next Session Meeting is May 20th.

Dan- the next New Members Class will be a weekend class in June.

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 7:53, followed by Communion Training, Communion and Prayer.

Communion Training/Devotional: (Alf, Beth, Rachel)

Please note that training documents are posted online in Officer Resources.

Minutes respectfully submitted on behalf of Bob Holloway, Clerk.

Jennifer Vajdos, April 2024

**Outreach Ministries
Funding Recommendations
May 2024**

CFH

Prestige Learning Institute

2023 Funding: \$10,000 + \$1065 Mission Market + \$7550 Over & Above

2024 Funding Recommendation: \$15,000

Prestige Learning Institute's (PLI) ministry is designed to meet the unique needs of our marginalized Muslim immigrant and refugee neighbors by empowering them to overcome social inequalities, while sharing the limitless love and resounding hope of God. PLI exists to glorify God by educating, equipping, and ministering to immigrant and refugee families, empowering them to thrive in the US. PLI facilities ESL education for women & men, after school programming for children, men's community groups, and a teenage girls group along with 8-9 community events annually.
www.prestigeinstitute.org

Family Point Resources

2023 Funding: \$30,000 + \$1000 O&A

2024 Funding Recommendation: \$30,000

Family Point Resources engages the West Houston community in supportive relationships that meet needs, build hope, and transform lives. Programs include a community library, after-school educational enrichment, art, theater and dance classes, and a full schedule of summer activities and camps. www.familypointresources.com

Casa de Esperanza de los Ninos

2023 Funding: \$10,000

2024 Funding Recommendation: \$15,000, Designated: Home Operating Funds

Designation of Funds: Operating funds (food & household expenses for one year for three homes in the Casa de Esperanza neighborhood) Casa de Esperanza de los Ninos strives to break the cycle of child abuse and neglect for at-risk infants, children and their families by providing comprehensive residential and family support programs that transform people and communities.

www.casahope.org

Yellowstone Academy

2023 Funding: \$15,000 + \$5,000 Over & Above

2024 Funding Recommendation: \$15,000, Designated: K-5 Program

Yellowstone Academy is a high quality Christian private school exclusively serving children from low-income families in Houston's Third Ward. It is founded on the premise that, through education and intensive intervention, children living in poverty can transcend their circumstances and grow up to become responsible, productive adults. yellowstoneacademy.org

DE

Camp Aranzazu

2023 Funding: \$20,000 + \$5,000 O&A (*kayak pond aerators*)

2024 Funding Recommendation: \$20,000, Designated: Scholarships for Houston Partners

Camp Aranzazu (pronounced Ah ran' zah zoo) on Copano Bay near Rockport is dedicated to enriching the lives of children and adults with special needs and chronic illnesses by providing unique camping, environmental education, and retreat experiences.

www.camparanzazu.org

Camp Blessing

2023 Funding: \$25,000 + \$7,500 O&A (*dam repair*)

2024 Funding Recommendation: \$25,000 unrestricted operating

Camp Blessing, located in Brenham, makes the childhood experience of camp available to campers whose challenges prevent their participation elsewhere. They are a Christian summer camp offering love, acceptance, and fun to children and young adults with special needs and their siblings.

www.campblessing.org

Camp Cho-Yeh

2023 Funding: \$50,000

2024 Funding Recommendation: \$50,000, Designated: Camper Scholarships

Cho-Yeh is a premier Christian summer camp and retreat center near Livingston. They are a place where Jesus Christ transforms lives through meaningful relationships and outdoor adventures.

www.cho-yeh.org

Presbyterian Mo-Ranch Assembly

2023 Funding: \$12,000

2024 Funding Recommendation: \$12,000, Designated: Camp In The Valley

Presbyterian Mo-Ranch Assembly is a conference and retreat center located on 500 acres along the Guadalupe River. Since 1949, Mo-Ranch has served as a sacred and transformative place for those who retreat to the Hill Country for worship, fellowship, relaxation, and renewal.

www.moranch.org

Stoney Creek Ranch

2023 Funding: \$25,000 + 6,000 O&A (*water fountains*)

2024 Funding Recommendation: \$25,000, Designated: Summer Urban Initiative

Stoney Creek Ranch is a Christian Camp in New Ulm, Texas dedicated to serving urban youth. They serve young people in ways that will allow them to come to know Christ and His role in their lives and to develop an authentic personal relationship with Him. They work with organizations that target urban youth who rarely experience the beauty of God's creation, offering a life-changing camping adventure in the great outdoors.

www.stoneycreekranch.org

HSN

Casa El Buen Samaritano

2023 Funding: \$40,000 +\$7,000 O&A

2024 Funding Recommendation: \$40,000

Casa El Buen Samaritano's mission is to share the love of Jesus Christ while providing whole-person — body, soul, spirit — healthcare to the low-income, the uninsured and uninsurable population in our community. Casa's integrated approach seeks to connect with each individual to understand their current relationship with Christ. Casa strives to cultivate their spiritual growth through Christ-centered medical, dental, and community services. Our prayer is to unite patients to those called to serve into a community of Christ's love. <https://www.casaelbuen.org/>

Hope and Healing Center

2023 Funding: \$7,500

2024 Funding Recommendation: \$10,000

The mission of the Hope and Healing Center and Institute (HHCI) is to improve access to care for individuals and families affected by mental illness through education, training, clinical & supportive services, and research. Hope and Healing Center and Institute helps to build and restore lives to health and wholeness by strengthening the physical, mental, spiritual, and relational health of individuals and families. As HHCI enters its 13th year of service it has become a recognized leader in the development of easily accessible and affordable options for mental health care and endeavors to be a front-line resource for mental health services and support in the greater Houston area and beyond. <https://www.hopeandhealingcenter.org/>

Be An Angel

2023 Funding: \$30,000 + \$15,000 O&A

2024 Funding Recommendation: \$30,000, Designated: Hearing Aids / Adaptive Equipment

It is the MISSION of Be AN Angel to improve the quality of life for children (from low to limited income families) with special needs by providing needed adaptive equipment, hearing devices, select services and support programs. Be An Angel strives to use all available means to create a world where every child with special needs can experience improvement in their personal quality of life. <https://www.beanangel.org/>

SBH

LIFE Houston

2023 Funding: \$15,000 + \$5,750 O&A

2024 Funding Recommendation: \$15,000 (Designation: Purchase Formula)

Local Infant Formula for Emergencies (LIFE Houston) operates Houston's only food bank for babies. Their Food for Babies program gives emergency infant formula to families with babies up to 1 year of age, and fills the gap left with federal programing, to ensure that cost is not a barrier for families with limited income.

<https://www.lifehouston.org/>

Nabor House Community

2023 Funding: \$7,500 + \$2,440 O&A

2024 Funding Recommendation: \$15,000

Nabor House Community invests in the growth and development of children from low-income families by providing quality, affordable early childhood centers in a Christian environment, enabling parents to pursue employment or education.

<https://naborhousecommunity.org/>

RaiseUp Families

2023 Funding: \$25,000

2024 Funding Recommendation: \$25,000

RaiseUp Families provides extensive case management to strengthen families and ensure childhood learning. Their 9-month HandUp Program supports a continuous, uninterrupted school year for children by stabilizing families in housing. Additional support includes job-readiness and training, case management services, supportive counseling, and self-sufficiency plan development.

<https://www.raiseupfamilies.org/>

Urban Outreach

2023 Funding: \$40,000

2024 Funding Recommendation: \$40,000

Urban Outreach is a Christian apartment ministry with onsite locations at apartments in Spring Branch, Aldine, Alief, Gulfton, Eastside, and Northside neighborhoods. They offer programs that address spiritual, physical, and social needs to help strengthen and preserve inner-city families. Offerings include the Christian Summer Camping Program, Character Development in Schools Program and area wide Summer Soccer Camps.

<https://www.urbanoutreachinc.org/>

GLOBAL

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

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

2024 Funding Recommendation: \$16,000

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.

Faith in Practice

2023 Funding: \$30,000 + \$3096 MM

2024 Funding Recommendation: \$30,000

Faith In Practice works to improve the physical, spiritual, and economic conditions of people living in poverty in Guatemala through short-term surgical, medical, and dental mission trips and health-related education programs. The doctors, nurses, and dentists who volunteer on these missions are called by God to demonstrate the love and compassion that is an outward sign of God's presence among us.

Faith Ministry

2023 Funding: \$30,000 + \$10,000 O&A

2024 Funding Recommendation: \$30,000

Faith Ministry aims to meet the basic physical needs of families living in poverty on the Mexican border, and in doing so, it shares the love of Jesus Christ. Through home construction, a medical clinic, food programs, child sponsorship, and skills training programs, it cares for the community and makes Christ's Name known.

The Micah Project

2023 Funding: \$60,000 + \$1,740 MM

2024 Funding Recommendation: \$60,000

The Micah Project ministers to young men and boys who have spent anguished childhoods in impoverished homes or on the streets of Tegucigalpa. The "Micah boys" are provided a loving home and learn to become Christian leaders through discipleship, education, and service to others. The Micah Project supports these young men as they learn to "act justly, love mercy, and walk humbly with our God." -Micah 6:8

Renewing Our Minds (c/o Forum for Leadership and Reconciliation)

2023 Funding: \$20,000

2024 Funding Recommendation: \$20,000

Renewing Our Minds seeks to reconcile people of different faiths and cultures in the Balkan region by studying the teachings of Jesus. Participants are chosen based on leadership potential, with the hope they will return to their home countries and impact their spheres of influence.

Special Gift

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

Special Funding Recommendation: \$20,000, designated: New Faculty Apartments

ETSC needs to purchase 4 additional faculty apartments (~185k USD total, they've already raised ~120k) by this summer to avoid being outpriced by inflation. This is to help them offer a sustainable compensation package for faculty, as their salaries are small, and they have a number of faculty positions to fill. (Beginning salary for new hires with a Doctoral degree is \$500/mo., plus housing.) Almost all the leaders of the Evangelical Church in Egypt, and many throughout the Middle East, have graduated from ETSC. The impact and influence that ETSC has on the body of Christ throughout the Arabic speaking world cannot be over-stated.

Combined Minutes of the Session Committees

May 2024

Caring Ministries Committee Minutes:

Ministry Reports

Card-writing:

- The Branches group held its monthly meeting in April to send handwritten notes to MDPC members who had been in the hospital/rehab, lost a loved one, or just needed encouragement. They also sent care cards to those who are staying in the MDPC-sponsored apartments in the Medical Center.
- The five dedicated Prayer Chain writers took turns writing to those on the Prayer Chain list.

Community Relations:

- **Community Relations is looking into how to make MDPC a more dementia-friendly environment in support of those who are affected by dementia and their families. Some dementia-friendly design suggestions were passed along to the facilities team.**

Dementia and Caregiver Support:

- **The Gathering Place:** 7 Care Partners and 6 of their Caregivers were at the Gathering on May 1. There were 4 MDPC Volunteers.
- **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 spring series of the Transforming Grief program is underway and is scheduled through May 22. Three new facilitators were just trained by the national director and are now on the MDPC team of facilitators. Contact Beverly Fluke for more information about the next offering in the fall.
- **The Widows Connection:** **There was a lunch at MDPC for Widows Connection members and their guests on Tuesday, April 16, at 11:30 am. Twelve ladies attended. The next lunch will be on May 21st.**
- **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:

- Our next blood drives will be on June 9 and October 27. Contact Debbie Cordell (dmc-ziggy@comcast.net) for more information.

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 Beth Case or Beverly Fluke or online at homecommunion.mdpc.org.

Home Visitation:

- The Home Visitation team, comprised of 12 volunteers, visits 32 homebound church members every month. This is our chance to lift up and brighten their days and reduce feelings of loneliness. 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 jlnewlin@comcast.net or Beverly Fluke if you would like to join the team or learn more about this ministry.

Memorial Services:

- April – 6 memorial services with receptions at MDPC. 3 inurnments in MDPC Columbarium

Prayer Ministry:

- **A National Day of Prayer** was held on May 2 in the Chapel.

Second Family:

- Second Family volunteers expended 109.5 hours to support their care partners during April 2024.
- We currently have 14 care partners and have been busy attending to each care partner's special needs. Visitation of our care partners continues to keep us very busy each month. We have 3 potential care partners that may join Second Family and will do an intake on each if they decide to become part of Second Family. Visitation is most beneficial to check on their health and wellbeing. One care partner needed her license renewed along with obtaining a legal birth certificate, which was a several hour process, but all was completed. Several care partners are taken on long walks and to lunch every week with long visitations. Others are brought special meals that they could not get for themselves. Visiting our care partners regularly may help them stay healthy longer. Our care partners are very thankful and happy and that makes it very rewarding for "Second Family".
- Mobile meals are being delivered Mondays and Thursdays of every week and we now have 6 deliveries with 5 stops.

Senior Adult Ministry:

- The monthly **Senior Adult newsletter** is mailed to 110 families (September to May). The newsletter contains descriptions of upcoming activities of Venturers, Encore Fellowship, Prime Timers, and the Senior Adult Fellowship Lunch. Information for Senior events and activities are also online at seniors.mdpc.org
- **Venturers:** 52 Venturers met and had dinner at Fratelli's on May 6 and heard Dr. Mark Jones, Political Science professor at Rice. He gave insights on the national elections, state offices, and local elections. The new Venturers were installed.
- **Encore Fellowship:** On April 25th, 18 went to see Driving Miss Daisy at The George Theater at A.D. Players. They plan to go to Chavez Mexican Restaurant on May 13.
- **Prime Timers** On April 17th, 10 went by MDPC bus to the Lone Star Flight Museum at Ellington Field, with lunch at Abe's Cajun Café. A shopping trip in the Montrose area is planned for May 16.
- **Senior Adult Fellowship Lunch:** Held at Café MDPC to have lunch, meet new friends, and learn more about existing friends. Lunch in April was on the 15th with 24 attending. Rob Ramsey displayed his collection of Army patches and cap medals. Future lunches will be on the third Monday of each month (none in July) with each lunch meeting having collections, crafts, hobbies, talents, etc., which our Senior Adults want to share with others.
- **Special Event:** We are planning to have Lt. Guinn of Precinct 5 make a presentation on August 8. He made a presentation last year on Active Shooter Response. Planning for this event is ongoing.

Stephen Ministry:

- The Stephen Ministry team met for its Supervisory meetings on April 9th and 23rd. Our Continuing Education speaker was Fuente Pastor Guillermo Yela who spoke on his personal journey as an immigrant coming from Guatemala to the US, giving insight and encouragement in sharing Christ's love with all.
- 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.
- There are currently 10 MDPC members going through training to become Stephen Ministers. They will complete their training at the end of May and become commissioned on June 11, 2024.

Creative Worship Committee Minutes:

Monday, April 22, 2024

ATTENDEES: Alf H., David S., Beth C., Rachel P., Karina F., Meliza G., Dan A., Charlie G., Kathryn W., and Tracy S.

July 7 – HOW TO HONOR JULY 4

- US and Christian flags in the lobby but at the center doors into the Sanctuary and Chapel
- Call to Worship to acknowledge the occasion.
- Patriotic hymns or songs that point people to God.

JUNE 2 TO SEPTEMBER 1 - NEW CITY CATECHISM SUMMER SERIES

- 14 weeks on the 52 questions of the New City Catechism, although July 14 will focus on Brick by Brick (SC theme)
- Discussed possible titles for the summer series; We Believe is the working title for now
- Should each service include an affirmation of faith based on one of the questions for that week?
- Questions to address at the beginning of the sermon series or before it begins: Why do we have creeds? Why should Christians say aloud what they believe? What was the reason for creating the new city catechism?
- There is a children's answer to each of the questions; perhaps we film a child saying the children's answer or a parent/grandparent asks their child or grandchild what the question means to them? Or two adults discussing it. These could turn into sermon bumpers. The pastors will discuss this at their weekly meetings.
- If we have a sermon bumper, perhaps the congregation reads the answer together after each sermon.

MAY 19 – LEGACY AND PENTECOST SUNDAY

- Services include a legacy video with a bulletin insert.
- For Pentecost, we normally have red draping on the cross, but is that all we should do?
- Discussed asking people to pray aloud at the same time; would it work? Do we need to build slowly the concept with our congregants? Perhaps pass out bookmarks with five different translations of a passage from Acts 2 and ask everyone to read it at the same time. Each version could end with, "Father, forgive us. Father, forgive us. Father, forgive us..." and we end up in a rhythm together saying these three words.
- The prayer of confession can set up this moment with phrases such as, "We don't hear each other. We don't understand each other. Since the fall..." Rachel is scheduled to write the POC for May 19 and she will think about ways to integrate these ideas.

The next creative meeting will be held on August 26, 2024, at 1 pm in Room 122.

Legacy Committee Minutes:

Legacy Committee Minutes

Thu, May 9, 2024

In attendance: Alf Halvorson, Marcus Vajdos, Nathan Stedham, Bob Davis, Bill Swenson, Melinda Jackson, Dena Bankett, and Ginny Glass

Absent: Cy Cattan and Tarryn Lankford

Bill Swenson opened the meeting in prayer.

Marcus presented the current Legacy requests:

- The Bathroom Remodel
- New roof for CLC
- Pickleball Courts
- The Monument Signs
- The Exterior Directional Signs

A lengthy discussion followed regarding the purpose of Legacy dollars and how much of the total fund should or should not be spent annually. Nathan will look up the parameters from the original Legacy docs. (Post meeting update: Nathan sent the files to the committee, and they are currently being reviewed.)

Bob Davis suggested that Legacy only partially fund the pickleball courts, with the remaining dollars coming from a couple of other sources. (Note: two private donations make up a substantial amount of the cost; only the balance will be funded by MDPC.) The other committee members were amenable to this.

Marcus noted that the bathrooms and the pickleball courts will garner substantial savings if done at the same time and by the same contractor. There were a few details to clarify on pricing, but it appears that the winning bidder will be Tom Forney Construction. The committee was pleased with the missional aspect of Forney Construction as well as the numbers that were submitted.

A motion was made to recommend \$1.7 million in Legacy – General funds for the following projects:

Bathrooms in Ministry Center (6)	\$600,000
Pickleball Courts	\$365,000
CLC Roof	\$500,000
LED Monument Signs	\$200,000
Exterior Signs	\$35,000

The proposal passed unanimously. These will now go before session.

Bob Davis closed the meeting in prayer.

Outreach Committee Minutes:

Attendees: Tom Braschayko, Kyle Wienert, Joe Stockdale, Marc Laney, Mike Pelton, Jennifer Fernelius, Mariel Braun, Sharon Roark, Julie LaRue, Amy Delgado (Not Present: Kelsi McCormack)

- I. Devotional (the 4 “C’s) and Dinner *Joe Stockdale*

- II. Committee Members Introductions for those who missed the previous meeting.

- III. Committee Reports: Funding Recommendations & Meeting Debriefs (see Attachment)
 - Children Families and Housing *Mariel Braun*
 1. Small Steps Nurturing Center - \$20,000
 2. Generation One - \$30,000
 3. Agape Development - \$40,000
 - Motion: To approve partner gift amounts as presented
 - Vote: Approved

 - Discipleship and Education *Jennifer Fernelius*
 1. Camp for All - \$10,000
 - Motion: To approve partner gift amounts as presented
 - Vote: Approved

 - Health and Special Needs – Meeting Debrief only *Marc Laney*

 - Spring Branch and Hunger *Mike Pelton*
 1. Santa Maria Hostel - \$15,000
 2. Cornerstone Family Ministries - \$35,000
 3. Gracewood - \$20,000
 4. Memorial Area Ministries - \$20,000 (English Literacy Program)

5. Spring Branch Community Health Center - \$30,000 (operations supporting care of patients)

- Motion: To approve partner gift amounts as presented
- Vote: Approved

• Global

Sharon Roark

1. The Antioch Partners - \$35,000
2. Lulwanda Children's Home (c/o Grace International Children's Foundation) - \$27,000
3. The Outreach Foundation - \$7,000
4. Missionary Partner: Family Serving in Saudi Arabia (Cru, Designated: Missionary # 0638840) - \$5,500
5. Missionary Partner: The Hall Family - \$11,000
6. Missionary Partner: Kristin Jones (Allegro Organizational Solutions, Designated: Acct# NYC-BB.KSJ) - \$5,500
7. Missionary Partner: Family Serving in SE Asia (Action International Ministries, Designated: Acct# 47001) - \$11,000
8. Missionary Partner: Kim Zovak (Novo, Designated: Acct# 6781 Zovak) - \$11,000
 - Motion: To approve partner gift amounts as presented
 - Vote: Approved

IV. Discussion – Potential Strategic Project

Amy Delgado/Julie LaRue

- Outreach was presented with a proposal by the Spring Branch Community Health Center to assist with funding the start-up of an onsite pharmacy. This is the remaining missing piece for whole patient care at SBCHC. To fully fund the pharmacy to be ready for back-to-school support is \$50,000. After extensive committee discussion, there was unanimous agreement to fund the pharmacy at \$50,000.
 - Motion: To approve funding in the amount of \$50,000 for SBCHC to be designated for the creation of a pharmacy.
 - Vote: Approved

V. Staff reports

A. Local

Julie LaRue

- Julie shared about the upcoming food drive being led by the Hunger Initiative Committee. Dates are May 5-19. Various communications are being coordinated by Julie, and an Amazon "wishlist" has been created for those who prefer to purchase online.

B. Global

Amy for Kelsi McCormack

- This year's Palm Sunday Offering came in a bit over \$33k. This is down from last year, but only due to a \$20k gift in 2023 that raised the number. This is an increase over years prior to 2022.

C. General

Amy Delgado

- Amy shared a discussion at this month's Global meeting regarding questions related to "Dollar for Dollar" and the Outreach Budget. Outreach is working on a document that will be shared with the elders for feedback and use within their committees to help answer questions related to computation of the Outreach budget and its associated governance/policies and procedures.

VI. Closing Prayer – Marc Laney led the team in a closing prayer.