



## SESSION DOCUMENTS

Mon, Sep 23, 2024

# Memorial Drive Presbyterian Church

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

## Session Meeting Agenda

September 23, 2024



### Strategic Goals

2023-2028



1. **Call to Order and Opening Prayer** (Beth Case)
2. **Establishment of Quorum** (Bob Holloway)
3. **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*

**Motion:** *to receive the above-named friends as Covenant Partners at MDPC.*

4. **Why Being a City Church Matters to God?** (Alf Halvorson)
5. **Clerk's Report** (Bob Holloway and Joe Stockdale)
  - a. ECO National Gathering - Highland Park Presbyterian- Dallas, TX- January 27-29, 2025
  - b. Texas Presbytery Meeting Recap
  - c. Nominating Committee Update
6. **Finance Report** (Bob Davis)

**7. Omnibus Agenda**

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

| <b>Name</b>                | <b>Age</b> | <b>Parents</b>                       | <b>Member</b> | <b>Date</b> |
|----------------------------|------------|--------------------------------------|---------------|-------------|
| 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**, Fellipe
- 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:**

| <b>Partner Funding Recommendations</b> | <b>Designated</b> |                                    |        |
|--|-------------------|------------------------------------|--------|
| 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 |
| <b>Totaling: \$361,500</b>             |                   |                                    |        |
| <b>Year to Date: \$2,038,850</b>       |                   |                                    |        |

**8. Calendar Reminders**

|              |   |
|--------------|---|
| September 29 | Alf Halvorson Preaching  Fall Sermon Series on the Book of Esther                         |
| October 6    | Clay Brown Preaching  World Communion Sunday  First Communion                             |
| October 13   | Alf Halvorson Preaching  Fall Sermon Series on the Book of Esther                         |
| October 20   | Alf Halvorson Preaching  Book of Esther  Rolling Congregational Meeting-All Five Services |

|             |  |
|-------------|--|
| October 27  | Alf Halvorson Preaching  Generosity Series- 1 <sup>st</sup> of 2 Weeks                               |
| October 28  | <b>Session Meeting</b>   |
| November 3  | Alf Halvorson Preaching  Generosity Series- 2 <sup>nd</sup> of 2 Weeks                               |
| November 10 | Alf Halvorson Preaching  Baptisms Immersion and Sprinkling  Confirmation Sunday-more details to come |
| November 17 | Alf Halvorson Preaching  Third Grade Bibles  |
| November 24 | Alf Halvorson Preaching  Thanksgiving Emphasis   |
| December 1  | Alf Halvorson Preaching  First Sunday in Advent  <b>Communion</b>                                    |
| 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**

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 24-25<sup>th</sup> in Houston- Details TBD  
 ECO National Gathering-Highland Park Presbyterian- Dallas, TX- January 27-29, 2025

**9. Announcements and Additional Business**

**10. Adjournment**

**Motion** to adjourn the September 2024 Session Meeting.

**11. Prayer** (Beth Case)

## 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?

**Memorial Drive Presbyterian Church  
Balance Sheet Thru August  
MDPC Summary Balance Sheet-2024**

| Name  | Month to Month       |                      |                     | August 2023          |
|---|----------------------|----------------------|---------------------|----------------------|
|   | August 2024          | July 2024            | Difference          |                      |
| <b>ASSETS</b>   |                      |                      |                     |                      |
| Unrestricted Cash & Cash Equivalents                  | 2,400,296.42         | 2,990,328.96         | (590,032.54)        | 2,354,535.06         |
| Current Investments (Unrestricted)                    | 1,807,711.93         | 1,479,298.38         | 328,413.55          | 2,300,941.64         |
| <b>Total Unrestricted Cash &amp; Cash Equivalents</b> | <b>4,208,008.35</b>  | <b>4,469,627.34</b>  | <b>(261,618.99)</b> | <b>4,655,476.70</b>  |
| Current Investments (Restricted)                      | 2,386,722.83         | 2,386,722.83         | -                   | 2,301,112.24         |
| Legacy Restricted Cash & Equivalents                  | 5,639,596.21         | 5,639,596.21         | -                   | 4,371,965.39         |
| <b>Total Restricted Cash &amp; Equivalents</b>        | <b>8,026,319.04</b>  | <b>8,026,319.04</b>  | <b>-</b>            | <b>6,673,077.63</b>  |
| Prepaid Expense, Deposits, Inventory                  | 573,413.60           | 616,075.71           | (42,662.11)         | 507,519.15           |
| Miscellaneous Receivables                             | 22,605.71            | 63,053.01            | (40,447.30)         | 30,103.22            |
| 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                                       | -                    | -                    | -                   | -                    |
| <b>TOTAL ASSETS</b>                                   | <b>20,873,734.94</b> | <b>21,218,463.34</b> | <b>(344,728.40)</b> | <b>20,164,292.58</b> |
| <b>LIABILITIES</b>                                    |                      |                      |                     |                      |
| Accounts Payable                                      | 580,220.91           | 579,844.58           | 376.33              | 718,100.19           |
| Other Payables  | 83,932.38            | 88,877.88            | (4,945.50)          | 53,808.68            |
| Prepaid Tuition and Fees                              | 43,730.00            | 112,332.50           | (68,602.50)         | 33,700.00            |
| Custodial Accounts                                    | 33,051.22            | 31,113.50            | 1,937.72            | 47,649.12            |
| Note Payable-PNC /PPP                                 | -                    | -                    | -                   | -                    |
| <b>TOTAL LIABILITIES</b>                              | <b>740,934.51</b>    | <b>812,168.46</b>    | <b>(71,233.95)</b>  | <b>853,257.99</b>    |
| <b>NET ASSETS</b>                                     |                      |                      |                     |                      |
| Unrestricted Net Assets                               | 11,848,428.45        | 12,089,622.10        | (241,193.65)        | 11,482,152.77        |
| Temp. Restricted Net Assets                           | 2,972,835.38         | 2,991,843.43         | (19,008.05)         | 2,636,535.95         |
| Perm. Restricted Net Assets                           | 433,857.59           | 433,857.59           | -                   | 433,857.59           |
| Restricted Legacy Net Assets                          | 4,877,679.01         | 4,890,971.76         | (13,292.75)         | 4,758,488.28         |
| <b>TOTAL NET ASSETS</b>                               | <b>20,132,800.43</b> | <b>20,406,294.88</b> | <b>(273,494.45)</b> | <b>19,311,034.59</b> |
| <b>TOTAL LIABILITIES &amp; NET ASSETS</b>             | <b>20,873,734.94</b> | <b>21,218,463.34</b> | <b>(344,728.40)</b> | <b>20,164,292.58</b> |

**Budgeted Financial Statement for Period 8 - August**  
**SUMMARY INCOME & EXPENSE - 2024**  
**Company#: 1 Name: Memorial Drive Presbyterian Church**  
**Fiscal Year Beginning 1/1/2024**

| Description                             | Aug-24              | 2024 Actual          |                       | Over (Under)          |                | % Variance            |                      | Budget 2024 Full |  |
|---|---------------------|----------------------|-----------------------|-----------------------|----------------|-----------------------|----------------------|------------------|--|
|   |                     | YTD                  | 2024 Budget YTD       | Budget                | YTD            | 2023 Actual YTD       | Year                 |                  |  |
| <b>OPERATING INCOME</b>                 |                     |                      |                       |                       |                |                       |                      |                  |  |
| <b>Contributions</b>                    | \$ 931,551          | \$ 8,024,064         | \$ 6,952,363          | \$ 1,071,701          | 15.41%         | \$ 6,807,910          | \$ 13,719,797        |                  |  |
| Ministry Events Revenue                 | \$ 159,345          | \$ 2,042,540         | \$ 2,060,626          | \$ (18,086)           | -0.88%         | \$ 1,986,345          | \$ 3,061,907         |                  |  |
| Other Operating Income                  | \$ 13,464           | \$ 242,714           | \$ 66,667             | \$ 176,047            | 264.07%        | \$ 233,957            | \$ 100,000           |                  |  |
| <b>TOTAL OPERATING INCOME</b>           | <b>1,104,360</b>    | <b>10,309,317</b>    | <b>9,079,655</b>      | <b>1,229,662</b>      | <b>13.54%</b>  | <b>9,028,211</b>      | <b>16,881,704</b>    |                  |  |
| <b>Ministry Operating Expense</b>       |                     |                      |                       |                       |                |                       |                      |                  |  |
| <b>Pastoral Ministry</b>                |                     |                      |                       |                       |                |                       |                      |                  |  |
| Caring Ministry                         | \$ 33,381           | \$ 275,083           | \$ 296,559            | \$ (21,476)           | -7.24%         | \$ 278,303            | \$ 448,929           |                  |  |
| Fuente                                  | \$ 13,408           | \$ 114,805           | \$ 69,227             | \$ 45,578             | 65.84%         | \$ 45,754             | \$ 106,765           |                  |  |
| Children's Ministry                     | \$ 80,924           | \$ 578,606           | \$ 606,648            | \$ (28,042)           | -4.62%         | \$ 605,546            | \$ 885,876           |                  |  |
| Youth Ministry                          | \$ 53,684           | \$ 363,373           | \$ 370,560            | \$ (7,187)            | -1.94%         | \$ 368,684            | \$ 567,216           |                  |  |
| Relationships                           | \$ 35,357           | \$ 238,852           | \$ 260,995            | \$ (22,143)           | -8.48%         | \$ 229,037            | \$ 393,813           |                  |  |
| Sports and REACH Programs               | \$ 12,785           | \$ 318,432           | \$ 292,352            | \$ 26,080             | 8.92%          | \$ 291,603            | \$ 417,441           |                  |  |
| Outreach (Admin)                        | \$ 52,123           | \$ 429,819           | \$ 406,550            | \$ 23,269             | 5.72%          | \$ 379,912            | \$ 607,660           |                  |  |
| Adult Discipleship                      | \$ 39,728           | \$ 271,952           | \$ 268,969            | \$ 2,982              | 1.11%          | \$ 238,060            | \$ 403,494           |                  |  |
| Young Adult                             | \$ 16,594           | \$ 98,646            | \$ 140,463            | \$ (41,817)           | -29.77%        | \$ 165,719            | \$ 213,538           |                  |  |
| Worship                                 | \$ 39,427           | \$ 326,606           | \$ 354,299            | \$ (27,692)           | -7.82%         | \$ 279,101            | \$ 529,786           |                  |  |
| Traditional Music                       | \$ 28,013           | \$ 287,924           | \$ 274,686            | \$ 13,238             | 4.82%          | \$ 262,708            | \$ 426,904           |                  |  |
| Contemporary Music                      | \$ 28,664           | \$ 221,900           | \$ 226,697            | \$ (4,797)            | -2.12%         | \$ 215,817            | \$ 337,296           |                  |  |
| Brazilian Ministry                      | \$ 15,618           | \$ 124,560           | \$ 131,752            | \$ (7,192)            | -5.46%         | \$ 103,872            | \$ 197,624           |                  |  |
| <b>Total Pastoral Ministry</b>          | <b>\$ 449,705</b>   | <b>\$ 3,650,559</b>  | <b>\$ 3,699,758</b>   | <b>\$ (49,199)</b>    | <b>-1.33%</b>  | <b>\$ 3,464,116</b>   | <b>\$ 5,536,342</b>  |                  |  |
| <b>Support Ministry</b>                 |                     |                      |                       |                       |                |                       |                      |                  |  |
| Communications & Media                  | \$ 76,516           | \$ 621,101           | \$ 603,533            | \$ 17,568             | 2.91%          | \$ 612,167            | \$ 905,300           |                  |  |
| Administration                          | \$ 67,993           | \$ 592,492           | \$ 561,300            | \$ 31,192             | 5.56%          | \$ 615,777            | \$ 820,741           |                  |  |
| Food Service                            | \$ 12,593           | \$ 105,134           | \$ 103,333            | \$ 1,800              | 1.74%          | \$ 93,571             | \$ 155,000           |                  |  |
| Facilities & Technology                 | \$ 242,832          | \$ 1,927,505         | \$ 1,601,243          | \$ 326,263            | 20.38%         | \$ 1,592,215          | \$ 2,380,816         |                  |  |
| The Little School                       | \$ 79,993           | \$ 757,806           | \$ 841,538            | \$ (83,733)           | -9.95%         | \$ 703,954            | \$ 1,255,145         |                  |  |
| The Yellow School                       | \$ 61,952           | \$ 522,683           | \$ 514,176            | \$ 8,507              | 1.65%          | \$ 536,715            | \$ 758,233           |                  |  |
| <b>Total Support Ministry</b>           | <b>\$ 541,879</b>   | <b>\$ 4,526,721</b>  | <b>\$ 4,225,124</b>   | <b>\$ 301,597</b>     | <b>7.14%</b>   | <b>\$ 4,154,399</b>   | <b>\$ 6,275,235</b>  |                  |  |
| Anticipated Budget Reduction            | \$ -                | \$ -                 | \$ -                  | \$ -                  | #DIV/0!        | \$ -                  | \$ -                 |                  |  |
| <b>Total Ministry Operating Expense</b> | <b>\$ 991,584</b>   | <b>\$ 8,177,280</b>  | <b>\$ 7,924,881</b>   | <b>\$ 252,399</b>     | <b>3.18%</b>   | <b>\$ 7,618,515</b>   | <b>\$ 11,811,577</b> |                  |  |
| <b>Outreach Expense</b>                 |                     |                      |                       |                       |                |                       |                      |                  |  |
| Outreach - Ministry Sponsored           | \$ 95,651           | \$ 780,985           | \$ 906,085            | \$ (125,100.31)       | -0.14%         | \$ 869,418            | \$ 1,293,639         |                  |  |
| Outreach - Ministry Partners            | \$ 204,000          | \$ 1,678,381         | \$ 1,578,400          | \$ 99,980.77          | 0.06%          | \$ 1,988,023          | \$ 3,181,488         |                  |  |
| <b>Total Outreach Expense</b>           | <b>\$ 299,651</b>   | <b>\$ 2,459,366</b>  | <b>\$ 2,484,485</b>   | <b>\$ (25,119.54)</b> | <b>-0.01%</b>  | <b>\$ 2,857,441</b>   | <b>\$ 4,475,127</b>  |                  |  |
| <b>Other Operating Expense</b>          |                     |                      |                       |                       |                |                       |                      |                  |  |
| Insurance & Legal                       | \$ 45,042           | \$ 368,254           | \$ 363,333            | \$ 4,920              | 1.35%          | \$ 294,135            | \$ 545,000           |                  |  |
| Capital Additions/Reserve               | \$ 4,167            | \$ 33,333            | \$ 33,333             | \$ (0)                | 0.00%          | \$ 33,333             | \$ 50,000            |                  |  |
| <b>Total Other Operating Expense</b>    | <b>\$ 49,209</b>    | <b>\$ 401,587</b>    | <b>\$ 396,667</b>     | <b>\$ 4,920</b>       | <b>1.24%</b>   | <b>\$ 327,468</b>     | <b>\$ 595,000</b>    |                  |  |
| <b>TOTAL OPERATING EXPENSES</b>         | <b>\$ 1,340,444</b> | <b>\$ 11,038,233</b> | <b>\$ 10,806,033</b>  | <b>\$ 232,200</b>     | <b>2.15%</b>   | <b>\$ 10,803,424</b>  | <b>\$ 16,881,704</b> |                  |  |
| <b>Other Income(Loss)</b>               |                     |                      |                       |                       |                |                       |                      |                  |  |
| <b>Total Other Income(Loss)</b>         | \$ -                | \$ -                 | \$ -                  | \$ -                  | 0%             | \$ -                  | \$ -                 |                  |  |
| <b>NET INCOME (LOSS)</b>                | <b>\$ (236,084)</b> | <b>\$ (728,916)</b>  | <b>\$ (1,726,378)</b> | <b>\$ 997,462</b>     | <b>-57.78%</b> | <b>\$ (1,775,213)</b> | <b>\$ 0</b>          |                  |  |
| Restr & Enrichment Inc/(Exp)            | \$ (37,410)         | \$ (48,134)          | \$ -                  | \$ (48,134)           | 0%             | \$ (73,460)           | \$ -                 |                  |  |



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

**Elders Present:** Jeannie Able, Chris Arend, Sandy Ballard, Mariel Braun, Ellen Davidson, Bob Davis, Jennifer Fernelius, Alex Knoop, Michael McCormack, Laura Miller, Christina Morse, Sara Kuhn, Marc Laney, Madison Limbacher, Rafael Moreira, Kathy Redden, Sharon Roark, David Shelfer, Nathan Stedham, Joe Stockdale, Bill Swenson, Jeff Taylor, Ryan Taylor, Mandy Todd, Kyle Wienert

**Elders Excused:** Rick Bradford, Tom Braschayko, Stephanie Espinoza, Ginny French, Bob Holloway, Michael Kringel

**Elders Absent:** Tarryn Lankford, Stefano Lugo, Mike Pelton, Dillon Shindler, Leslie Sloan, Mat Yelvington

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

**Other Staff Present:** Amy Delgado, Beverly Fluke, Sally Henien, Ashley Michels, Amanda Shockley, Jennifer Vajdos, Marcus Vajdos

**Call to Order:** Pastor Alf Halvorson called the meeting of the Session of Memorial Drive Presbyterian Church to order at 6:33pm in the Chapel. He opened with prayer.

**Call for Quorum:** The Clerk Elect-elect, Joe Stockdale, affirmed that a quorum was present.

**Time with Alf/ Master Planning Update:** Alf noted that he had nothing to formally present but more of a status report, reminding us that in May, our Session approved 50K to enlist Merriman Holt to take us through a Master Planning evaluation and this is an update of where we are in executing that. Merriman Holt conducted meetings over the summer with departments, with lay leaders, Elders, Deacons, MPDC Staff, Mission Partners (Antioch) and a representative of Scouts. Those meetings allowed MH to get input on needs, wants and establish emerging themes. Some of these Emerging Themes: 1. LS has 150 students and a waitlist. YS has max 100 students- if MDPC member you get preference- why take risk if can't be guaranteed both. Some would say are we committed to Early Childhood education -do we need to establish a number and then those know they can go all the way through the schools? - or if not, we may require expansion- how many families that begin without a connection to MDPC have a connection over time and become pledgers, givers, and use their time and talent. 2. In between chapel and sanctuary- no space for multi-use holding 500+ for preaching, speakers, conferences, with breakout rooms next to it. Would we benefit from this in between space? 3. Need more "plug and play" rooms for classes near Sanctuary. At 11:15 every room is being utilized. If we want to expand Sunday School at this hour, where do you put them? 4. our communications wing and music offices- closest potential classrooms near sanctuary- should all office space be upstairs, and the downstairs and main floor be more for our community space. Would we repurpose worship suite, main office, communications.? 5. Is the Main Office in the right spot? Do we need a welcome area or entry by the children's playground to welcome by parking lot which is furthest from Sanctuary? 6. Food pantry is not in an ideal location. The basement below is not built to support weight. We have established a team including Staff- Alf, Carter, Marcus; Sandy Ballard and Michael McCormack as Elders and Lay Leadership: Mike Handel (Chair), Cheryl Moore Co-Chair (Previous Clerk), Amy Harrington, Josie Pielop-newer member, Christyn Knoop- representing YA, Regina Verona- multicultural; Scout representation -Bill McDonald. Meeting twice a month for now and will conduct offsite visits in Houston and Dallas area. We plan to have one or two church input sessions. We will evaluate ideas and filter through goals and four columns and see what emerges.

Alf's question- If not now, When? It's not going to get cheaper. If there are needs for the kingdom this might be a sweet spot for MDPC. There seems to be strong trust with the current staff and lay leadership. Perhaps God has been preparing us for this time to act.

**Clerk's Report:** (Joe Stockdale)

a. Upcoming ECO Texas Presbytery Meeting – First Presbyterian, San Antonio-September 20-21

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

**Nominations:** (Laura Miller) Beth gave an intro announcing that Laura Miller's family has discerned a move to Tomball, and she will not finish out her term as Clerk-Elect. She has graced us with her knowledge and presence as we have kicked off this year's nomination process. Several options on vacated position- Alf can choose a replacement, but we are not in a crisis so we can allow Nom Com to walk into their process allowing a nomination for a one-year fill. For Moderator of Nom Com, we will look to another representative on Nom Com already who is the 4<sup>th</sup> year Clerk, Kelly Handel. We thanked Laura for her service! Laura noted that she is content to leave on a high note-it is exciting to see a thriving healthy, faithful, - we have an amazing team making phone calls to our nominees- She reminded us that people need purpose and fulfillment and direction in their lives- we are called to follow in Christ's footsteps. Laura guided us in a time for nominations using a QR code that Jennifer put up with a direct link to the nomination form on MDPC website- We are doing very well with nominations, but we do need more. "You don't know the role of faithful people that you see in halls serving in different capacities that can shape the future of the church." Nominate. Clock starts now!

**Finance Report:** (Bob Davis and Marcus Vajdos)

4 years 2021-2024 as of today well above budget

The question may be why so far above budget- people are giving a little bit earlier – this helps with investment income that earns interest- the caution is as we go toward end of year, we may look like we are not doing as well. our church is older, so it costs more to maintain-

Current projects: updated post and panel signs; the new LED signs should be in right after the September Session Meeting; Restrooms close to up and running; CLC roof in the next 6 weeks. A huge kudos to Bob, Chris, Sandy, Kyle- spec bid will save MDPC money.

**Omnibus Agenda:**

Alf introduced the Omnibus Motion below for August. He asked if there were any items that needed to be removed for separate consideration. Alf 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 June 24, 2024, Session Meeting.

b. **Motion** to approve the following Baptisms performed in July 2024:

| Name                      | Age    | Parents                             | Member           | Date                  |
|---------------------------|--------|-------------------------------------|------------------|-----------------------|
| Noah Uzoma Emihe (Hylton) | Infant | Judene Hylton and Charles Emihe     | Mom-No<br>Dad-No | 7/21/2024<br>Sprinkle |
| Hallie Russell Horacek    | Infant | Meredith Furst and Sean Horacek     | Yes-both         | 7/21/2024<br>Sprinkle |
| Faith Annette Shindler    | Infant | Rebecca and Will Allen Shindler III | Yes-both         | 7/21/2024<br>Sprinkle |

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

**Outreach Ministry – Partner Funding**

**Recommendations**

**Consent Agenda items:**

**Partner Funding Recommendations**

**Designated**

|                        |          |     |
|------------------------|----------|-----|
| Boys and Girls Country | \$10,000 | CFH |
| Child Advocates        | \$10,000 | CFH |
| Alpha USA              | \$15,000 | DE  |

|                                  |          |                                    |        |
|----------------------------------|----------|------------------------------------|--------|
| Home Encouragement               | \$18,000 |                                    | DE     |
| Bo's Place                       | \$12,000 |                                    | HSN    |
| ECHOS                            | \$25,000 |                                    | HSN    |
| Lifehouse Houston                | \$10,000 | Furnishing for 2 new<br>Apartments | HSN    |
| Magnificat Houses, Inc.          | \$22,500 |                                    | HSN    |
| Reach Unlimited                  | \$20,000 | Documentation System               | HSN    |
| African Enterprise               | \$15,000 |                                    | Global |
| Faith Ministry                   | \$20,000 | Berea Bible Institute              | Global |
| Faith Ministry                   | \$1,500  | Berea Bible Institute -Stove       | Global |
| Frontier Fellowship              | \$25,000 |                                    | Global |
| <b>Totaling: \$204,000</b>       |          |                                    |        |
| <b>Year to Date: \$1,677,350</b> |          |                                    |        |

|                 |  |
|-----------------|--|
| September 1     | Alf Halvorson Preaching  "Unshakable Truth: Building a Rock-Solid Faith"<br><i>Christ's role &amp; ours now Q's 49-51</i><br><b>Labor Day All-Church Lunch</b> |
| September 8     | Alf Halvorson Preaching  Fall Sermon Series on the Book of Esther  |
| September 15    | Dave Peterson Guest Preaching  |
| September 20-21 | ECO Texas Presbytery Meeting- First Presbyterian Church, San Antonio   |
| September 22    | Alf Halvorson Preaching  |
| September 23    | <b>Session Meeting</b>   |

#### **Remaining 2024 Session Meeting Dates**

September 23  
October 28  
November- No Meeting  
December 16

#### **Looking Forward: 2025 Dates**

New Officer Installation- January 12, 2025  
Officer and Staff Retreat – January 24-25<sup>th</sup> in Houston- Details from Marcus and Jennifer to come  
ECO National Gathering-Highland Park Presbyterian- Dallas, TX- January 27-29,

#### **Luke Funderburk -MDPC Resident**

Our first MDPC Resident! More intense than an intern- more theological work, teaching, learning to write a homily, etc.- we are not voting as Luke is not in a stage of candidacy- we get to encourage, ask questions, come alongside him. Luke was invited to give us a little bit about his background and calling. It's our Legacy Funds that brought Luke to us, so for that we are grateful!

#### **Announcements and Additional Business**

Next Session Meeting is September 23rd.

**David Shelfer** –call out for Ushers! He and Alf also mentioned that the Worship Committee is considering bringing back the passing of the offering plate on a more frequent basis.

**Dan Aikins**- call out for Greeters!

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 7:56 and ended with prayer led by Dan and Alf.

Minutes respectfully submitted on behalf of Joe Stockdale, Clerk Elect-elect.

Jennifer Vajdos, August 2024

# Outreach Ministries Funding Recommendations September 2024

## **CFH**

### **Galveston Urban Ministries**

2023 Funding: \$10,000 + \$3,000 O&A

#### **2024 Funding Recommendation: \$10,000**

Galveston Urban Ministries (GUM) is a Christian community development ministry transforming the North Broadway neighborhood in Galveston. They focus on teaching kids how to read, helping adult neighbors prepare to enter the work force, educating work groups from all over Texas and sharing the abundant love of Jesus!

[galvestonurbanministries.org](http://galvestonurbanministries.org)

### **Houston Welcomes Refugees**

2023 Funding: \$7,500

#### **2024 Funding Recommendation: \$7,500**

Houston Welcomes Refugees is helping to ease the resettlement process for refugees coming to Houston by mobilizing invested, caring volunteers, fostering hope amidst the crisis. HWR facilitates three programs, Welcome Kits, Friendship and Community Education. These programs ensure refugees have the needed essentials to begin life in their new homes, provide them with connections to resources for their first months in Houston and educate community members on the refugee crisis and resettlement process. [www.houstonwelcomesrefugees.com/](http://www.houstonwelcomesrefugees.com/)

### **SEARCH Homeless Services**

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

#### **2024 Funding Recommendation: \$30,000 (designated: House of Tiny Treasures)**

SEARCH Homeless Services, House of Tiny Treasures: The House of Tiny Treasures is a preschool for SEARCH Homeless Services that serves children (2 to 5 years of age) whose families are homeless or living in deep poverty, providing them with a brighter, more hopeful future.

[searchhomeless.org](http://searchhomeless.org)

## **HSN**

### **Amazing Place**

2023 Funding: \$25,000

#### **2024 Funding Recommendation: \$30,000 (designated: Connections Program Phase 2)**

Amazing Place empowers lives disrupted by dementia, with the vision of ending the stigma of dementia. Their Day Program enriches the lives of adults with mild to moderate dementia on a daily basis, while their Connections Program provides essential knowledge, tools, and support for families, caregivers, health professionals, congregations, and the community.

<http://www.Amazingplacehouston.org>

### **CarePartners**

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

**2024 Funding Recommendation: \$20,000 (designated: Caregiver community-based programs)\***

CarePartners provide support, education, resources and respite to family caregivers and quality care to those individuals living with memory loss, Alzheimer's or Dementia and other challenges of aging. They provide no cost support and respite to caregivers through the Gathering Place, Second Family, Common Ground and caregiver educational events. The Gathering Place meets at MDPC every 1st and 3rd Wednesday.

<http://www.Carepartnerstexas.org>

*\* including the Gathering Place, Second Family, Common Ground, Caregiver Educational Conferences and Caregiver Consultations*

### **Demand Disruption**

2023 Funding: \$18,000

**2024 Funding Recommendation: \$5,000\***

Demand Disruption fights the demand for sex trafficking by eliminating buyer motivation and reducing access to the exploited. They offer community engagement programs about defending the home, loving people who are struggling with addiction, and educating about the connection to Human Trafficking. Demand Disruption also confronts the demand for sex trafficking through partnership with law enforcement and seeks to shut down illicit businesses.

<https://www.Demanddisruption.org>

*\*Improvement must be shown for new funding supporters and impact stats*

### **His Grace Foundation**

2023 Funding: \$15,000 + \$1,014 MM + \$7,500 O&A

**2024 Funding Recommendation: \$18,000**

His Grace Foundation provides physical, emotional, and financial support to children receiving bone marrow transplants at Texas Children's Hospital, as well as critical support to patients' families during the 100- day post-transplant phase.

<https://www.hisgracefoundation.org>

### **Houston Area Parkinson's Society**

2023 Funding: N/A, new in 2024

**2024 Funding Recommendation: \$10,000 (designated: Exercise programs)**

Houston Area Parkinson Society (HAPS) exists so that no one faces a Parkinson's disease diagnosis alone. By using a whole-human approach to community building, we reduce the fear and isolation associated with such a diagnosis. We see a world in which all affected by Parkinson's have the hope, confidence, and support needed to live life to its fullest. <https://www.haps.org>

### **Parent Project Muscular Dystrophy**

2023 Funding: \$13,000 + \$887 MM + \$5,000 O&A

#### **2024 Funding Recommendation: \$13,000 (designated: South Texas Family Camp)\***

Parent Project Muscular Dystrophy serves the Duchenne community in the U.S. and around the world. They are committed to finding a long-term treatment and cure for Duchenne Muscular Dystrophy through research funding, advocacy efforts, raising awareness, and annual conferences for parents, families, and medical professionals. Connect South Texas Family Camp brings local families with Duchenne and Becker muscular dystrophies together for a weekend of connection and fun at Camp for All.

<https://www.parentprojectmd.org>

*\* Local families with Duchenne and Becker muscular dystrophies*

### **The Landing**

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

#### **2024 Funding Recommendation: \$0 and Dismissal**

The Landing serves survivors of human trafficking and commercial sexual exploitation. Offerings includes the Outreach Program, where survivors are met on the street, in court or online; the Drop In Center, where survivors access basic needs including food, clothing and a resting room; and the Youth Advocacy Program, which provides 24/7 and crisis support for trafficked children and youth.

<https://www.thelanding.org>

## **DE**

### **Faithful Fathering**

2023 Funding: \$20,000

#### **2024 Funding Recommendation: \$25,000**

Faithful Fathering encourages and equips dads to be faithful fathers who prioritize physical presence, are engaged emotionally and lead spiritually by example. Programming helps to engage dads in raising a Godly generation that reinvigorates the Church on the fathering front.

[faithfulfathering.org](http://faithfulfathering.org)

## **FinD**

2023 Funding: \$15,000

#### **2024 Funding Recommendation: \$20,000**

Fellowship in Discipleship (FinD) is a fellowship of Christian men who are serious about authentic discipleship. They challenge each other daily to believe the incredible news that God actually knows us, loves us, and wants to transform us into spiritual maturity.

[finddiscipleship.org](http://finddiscipleship.org)

### **The Get Together**

2023 Funding: \$7,500

#### **2024 Funding Recommendation: \$7,500**

The Get Together is an open network of businesspeople who gather over lunch to collaboratively use their business expertise, resources, and networks to meet significant needs of local, Christ-centered nonprofits.

[thegettogether.org](http://thegettogether.org)

### **Young Life of Greater Houston**

2023 Funding: \$50,000

#### **2024 Funding Recommendation: \$50,000 (designated: \$14,000 - Next Gen Leaders, \$10,000 - West Houston/Young Lives, \$26,000 - Capernaum)**

Operating on middle and high school campuses, Young Life introduces adolescents to Jesus Christ and helps them grow in their faith. Young Life's Urban Program has expanded to include chapters that minister specifically to unwed mothers, college students and students and young adults with intellectual and developmental disabilities. The Developing Future Leaders (DFL) initiative is a comprehensive two-year leadership training program designed to recruit, train and deploy qualified Latino and African American Young Life staff throughout Greater Houston.

[houstonregion.younglife.org](http://houstonregion.younglife.org)

### **SBH**

#### **Kid's Meals**

2023 Funding: \$20,000 + \$6,050 O&A

#### **2024 Funding Recommendation: \$20,000**

Kids' Meals works to end childhood hunger by delivering free, healthy meals, year-round to the doorsteps of Houston's hungriest preschool-aged children. Additionally, they connect families to more than 50 vital community organizations and resources to help them break out of the poverty cycle.

[www.kidsmealsinc.org](http://www.kidsmealsinc.org)

### **Mission of Yahweh**

2023 Funding: \$15,000 + \$2,104 MM+ \$38,900 O&A

#### **2024 Funding Recommendation: \$20,000**

Mission of Yahweh (MOY) is a faith-based shelter that empowers, enriches and restores the lives of homeless women and children and provides outreach services to low-income communities. MOY is the only emergency (up to 90 days) and transitional shelter (up to 2 years) for homeless women and children in the greater Houston area offering a unique continuum of services.

[www.missionofyahweh.org](http://www.missionofyahweh.org)

## **Salvation Army**

2023 Funding: \$20,000 + \$6,721 O&A

### **2024 Funding Recommendation: \$20,000 (Designated: Houston Food and Meal Programs)**

The Salvation Army is an evangelical Christian ministry that operates shelters and transitional housing facilities, community care centers, disaster services, and programs for veterans. They provide nutritious meals for individuals who are homeless but sheltered at The Family Residence (shelter for families, young adults, single women and trafficking victims) and Center of Hope (emergency shelter/recovery program for single men). In addition, they operate food pantries at local community care centers.

[www.salvationarmyhouston.org](http://www.salvationarmyhouston.org)

## **SpringSpirit**

2023 Funding: \$20,000 + \$22,000 O&A

### **2024 Funding Recommendation: \$25,000**

SpringSpirit provides safe pathways for underserved youth to realize life opportunities through sports, education and mentoring programs that are based on Christian principles. They offer a variety of recreational and competitive sport opportunities, reading intervention and large and small group bible teaching.

[www.springspirit.org](http://www.springspirit.org)

## **Global**

### **Pars Theological Center**

2023 Funding: \$18,000 + \$2,546 MM

### **2024 Funding Recommendation: \$20,000**

Iran is hosting one of the fastest growing churches in the world today. With this comes a critical need for training faithful and effective leaders who would shepherd the Iranian church into maturity in Christ and act as agents of change in all the spheres of culture and society across the Persian-speaking world. PARS Theological Center is a London-based ministry that provides theological education, leadership development, and broad support to the underground Iranian church.

## **ICM**

2023 Funding: N/A; new in 2024

### **2024 Funding Recommendation: \$5,000**

ICM was founded in 1986 with the vision of establishing a healthy church within walking distance of everyone in the world. ICM partners with indigenous ministries to equip local churches with a permanent church building and practical discipleship tools and resources in their native language. The church building not only serves as a place of worship but also an outreach center for the community, serving both physical and spiritual needs. Church leaders and local evangelists are trained to plant churches in nearby unreached communities, reaching places that outsiders could never access. In the last 38 years, ICM has partnered with indigenous ministries to build over 12,500 healthy churches and over 50,000 church plants in 106 nations.



**Global Missionary**

**Hannah and Mario Sfeir - Funding made out to: Pioneers, Designated: Account 112440**

2023 Funding: N/A; new in 2024

**2024 Funding Recommendation: \$5,500**

Hannah and Mario live near Beirut, Lebanon where they lead a thriving media ministry and train disciple-makers in their community. They create Gospel centered social media content in Arabic to connect with unreached people in Lebanon and throughout the Arab world that are interested in learning about Christ. In addition to their social media outreach, Hannah uses trauma counseling and trauma healing Bible studies to minister to women in their region. Pray for Hannah, Mario and their outreach team as they proclaim Christ, engage seekers, disciple new believers, and plant Muslim-background house churches among Arabic speakers in Lebanon and beyond.

## Combined Minutes of the Session Committees September 2024

### **Caring Ministries Committee Minutes: September 17, 2024**

Attendees: Karen Austin, Penny Bryant, Beth Case, Annette Erickson, Beverly Fluke, Christine Gentil, Jim Newlin, Kathy Redden, Christine Roskamp, Lisa Shelfer, Judy Stockton, Suzanne Tobin, Sue Warren, Paul Whelchel  
Not in Attendance: Judy Gordon

**Opening Prayer & Devotional:** Lisa Shelfer

### **Ministry Reports**

#### **Card-writing:**

- The Branches group held its monthly meeting in August 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 looking into a speaker series with broad-based appeal for 2025. Topics being discussed include understanding AI, fraud/scam prevention, and various health and safety interests. Contact Community Relations Deacon, Judy Stockton, at [jkstockton@comcast.net](mailto:jkstockton@comcast.net) with any suggestions for topics and speakers.

#### **Dementia and Caregiver Support:**

- **The Gathering Place:** The Gathering met on Wednesday, September 4. The theme was Football. There were 5 care receivers with their caregivers, and 7 volunteers. Nancy Blurton led in exercise listening to football fight songs, complete with pom poms. The entertainment was David Laduka who serenaded the group with familiar songs. There was also puzzles, lunch, and Bingo.
- Note: more male volunteers are needed, so please contact deacon Penny Bryant or Gathering Place coordinator Susanne McClean to learn more.
- **Caregiver Support Group:** The group meets for lunch at MDPC to support one another on the 3<sup>rd</sup> Thursday each month. For more information, contact Beverly Fluke or deacon Penny Bryant at [phb14@comcast.net](mailto:phb14@comcast.net).

#### **Grief Support:**

- **Transforming Grief:** The fall series of the Transforming Grief program is scheduled for 2:00-3:30pm on Monday afternoons, Sept 23 – Nov 11, and registration is open until Sept 20 at [grief.mdpc.org](http://grief.mdpc.org). The fall facilitators are Debra Coole and Marsha Hartsell. Contact Beverly Fluke for more information.
- **The Widows Connection:** Continues to meet the third Tuesday of each month at 11:30 AM in room 101. Our next meeting is September 17, 2024. The group will discuss activities for the fall.
- **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 MDPC Blood Drive will be October 27, 2024.

#### **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](http://homecommunion.mdpc.org).

### **Home Visitation:**

- The Home Visitation team, comprised of 12 volunteers, visits over 30 homebound church members every month. We were sad to lose two of our longtime members on the visitation roster in August.
- 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](mailto:jnewlin@comcast.net) or Beverly Fluke if you would like to join the team or learn more about this ministry.

### **Memorial Services:**

- August – 5 memorial services with receptions at MDPC. There were 4 inurnment services in the Columbarium.

### **Prayer Ministry:**

- Nearly 75 people joined us in person and online as we spent 30 minutes “Praying for Schools.” The event was hosted in the Chapel, 9:30-10:00am on Aug 26, 2024. Prayer Bookmarks were handed out to all in attendance, and also to Little School parents following drop off. Light snacks were served following the event. Special thanks go to Lisa Shelfer and Luke Funderburk for their leadership.

### **Second Family:**

- Second Family volunteers expended 132.5 hours to support their care partners during August.
- We currently have 12 care partners and have been busy attending to each care partner’s special needs. We are sad to report that we lost one of our care partners last month. His memorial service was held at MDPC and the eulogy given was very creative and moving. One care partner has been in the hospital with blood clots and injuries. We assisted her when she was discharged and took her to a rehabilitation center. We assisted another care partner with Durable Power of Attorney and Medical Power of Attorney documents. They were all signed and copies were given to her family. We assisted yet another care partner with several doctor appointments and then with knee surgery that included getting a hospital bed delivered to her home and being with her when discharged from the hospital. 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 Mondays and Thursdays of every week and we currently have just 1 delivery with 1 stop.

### **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](http://seniors.mdpc.org).
- **Venturers:** The kickoff meeting for the year will be on September 16 at Fratelli’s Restaurant with Pastor Alf Halvorson speaking.
- **Encore Fellowship:** On August 20, 37 met at Collina’s Restaurant for fellowship and Italian food and to celebrate 5 years of Encore Fellowship. On September 20, they plan to go to the Music Box to hear hits of the 60’s and 70’s.
- **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, they plan to go to The Rustic Brush where individuals can select and make a craft project.
- **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 having collections, crafts, hobbies, talents, etc., which our Senior Adults want to share with others. We are in the process over several months of mailing postcards and phoning (by several callers) some 450 church members to inform them of Seniors Lunch.

## **Stephen Ministry:**

- The Stephen Ministry team met for its supervisory meeting on August 13th and again on August 27th for continuing education. Pastor Beth Case presented a very helpful topic on The Journey of Faith. This not only gave insight for our caregiving but application to our own lives.
- New Stephen Leader, Harvey Trammell, will be commissioned on Sunday, Sept 15, at the 11:15 AM service.
- Our own Stephen Minister Jeanmarie Tade will be ordained and installed as Pastor of Caring Ministries at First Presbyterian Church on Sunday, Sept 15, at 2:00 PM.
- 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:**

- Nominations are closed. The Nomination Committee will begin working on a proposed slate of new officers.

**Closing Prayer:** Sue Warren

**Next CM Meeting:** Tuesday, October 15<sup>th</sup>, at 10:00 AM in room 101 (Devotional – Suzanne Tobin; closing prayer – Christine Roskamp)

## **Children's Ministries Lead Team Minutes:**

September 3, 2024

Due to a late August meeting, in lieu of meeting in person in September, each area sent the following notes.

The next meeting of the Children's Ministries' Lead Team will be on October 1 at 12:00pm in the Summit Room.

Continued prayers requested for Mr. Michael as he recovers from surgery.

### *Preschool:*

During July and August, I concentrated on planning and organizing the 2024-2025 year for the Preschool Sunday classes for 9:45 and 11:15 services: Finding and preparing volunteers and starting Worship for both hours. Also, I worked on creating a curriculum for the teaching in Chapel for the Little and Yellow schools.

### **Volunteers**

**For the Sunday Ministry, my first goal was to get enough volunteers in each class in a way they would serve only once a month in their classes.**

We have six classes operating at 9:45 service and three at 11:15. Two classes are led by CPP staff, and four are led by volunteers.

Before the kickoff, I contacted parents, women, and teens, inviting them to volunteer in these four classes. I got positive responses from 32 volunteers, and with that, I created a schedule where volunteers rotate working once a month.

On August 11th, the Children's Ministries held a training session for preschool and elementary volunteers dedicated to preparing them to lead their classes from kickoff day onward. We divided the group into preschool and elementary volunteers, and I delivered the training to the preschool.

For the ones that could not come, I arranged to meet with them on a day of their convenience.

On August 25th, I also trained the CPP staff that help in the preschool classes.

### **Worship**

**My second main target was to implement Worship for the 9:45 children. I worked on planning and organizing how to do this. On August 25th, we started the Worship hour for the children who attend both services.**

### **Lesson Plans**

During the week, I create the Sunday lesson plans, one for the 9:45-hour volunteers and another for the 11:15-hour volunteers. After they are ready, I prepare all the crafts the volunteers will do with the kids and collect all the necessary materials.

### **Chapel**

The teaching plan is ready to be applied. Chapel for both schools begins September 18<sup>th</sup>.

### *Elementary:*

Volunteers were low on Labor Day Weekend – Mayra had a service project for the classrooms without teachers. Will consider doing a once-a-month service project for the remainder of the semester or at least once a semester. Bible Literacy – It is hard to do everything I wish for the kids to learn in Sunday School. Should we consider maybe having small group leader take on some of that responsibility during their small group time? Or possibly break up and focus on one specific item at a time.

#### Events:

- Faith Walk September 15th 12:30am-2:30pm – Volunteers needed!
- o First Communion – Sunday, October 6th at either the 9:45 or 11:15 AM service.
- Blast Off – Wednesday Night Bible Study – 9/18-11/20. Note – No Blast Off the week of Thanksgiving.

Volunteers needed!

- Children's Choir begins 9/18

### *Childcare Plus:*

August's Parents Shopping Day on 8/10 went well.

CCP staff received training from Mimi and Lenora on 8/25.

CCP Parents Night Out is scheduled for 9/14/24.

### *Kaleidoscope & Safe Haven:*

Family Camp will take place October 18 – 20 at Camp for All in Burton, TX. We have 76 people registered and 5 on a waiting list. We anticipate taking approximately 90 people to the camp. We're just waiting on some information from Camp for All before we add more people.

We've received several applications for the part-time Special Needs Coordinator position. So far, only one candidate has the necessary experience, and she's scheduled to come to MDPC for an in-person interview on 9/9.

### *The Little School:*

- Started school on Monday, the 26<sup>th</sup> with 140 children enrolled.
- We have officially 4 new teachers who started with us.
  - o Ms. Darline in 110 with the babies, Ms. Hannah in 111 with the toddlers, and Ms. Marlin and Ms. Jennifer in 117 with the older babies.
- We have our annual Scholastic Book Fair coming up in September.
- We hired a new photographer and will have our individual pictures in October.

Off to a great start!

## **Generosity Committee Minutes:**

September 18, 2024, at 12noon

### **Attending:**

Bill Swenson, Jeannie Able (prepared notes), Chris Arend, Joe Stockdale, Nathan Stedham, Alf Halvorson, Marcus Vajdos, Ava Caliendo, Kate Brock, Christina Densmore – representing Ginny Glass

### **Absent:**

Ginny Glass, Colby Mueck, Michael McCormack, Hunter Smith

### **Meeting Notes:**

Joe - Opening prayer

Christina Densome - update on behalf of Ginny Glass -

3 videos planned - Inside MDPC - to showcase ministry partners

Social media – generosity vs legacy explanation  
MDPC is a neighborhood church that performs like a city wide / worldwide church  
Discussion about presentation / reaffirm the TEAM MDPC tagline

Charitable Giving Update:

Colby met with Trey Little on ways to be more effective with our charitable giving  
Looking at the various topics and ways to educate the congregation  
Discussion about taking it slowly with charitable giving solutions  
Discuss about how donor advise funds are effective and tax efficient

Alf – Worship evaluation committee approved to pass the plate 2X a month  
First and third Sunday in general will be the schedule  
Reminder that the church can revert to pre pandemic procedures now that we are post pandemic

Ava - Reviewed the handouts and discussion followed.

Marcus – Reviewed the handouts and discussion followed.  
2024 – @10M pledged  
Increased pledges 1.1M in 2024 compared to 2023  
Predict our hurdle in Dec won't be as high this year  
Messaging is important as we finish the year  
Discussion about considering a pre-determined % for over & above /clear communication to membership  
Bill reminded us to pray that God will continue to bless our budget for the year remaining

Bill – 2025 Goals

In the past a 5% increase of giving and pledges was discussed  
Discussion about running the data of new members past vs current year  
Branding and messaging are different for different groups i.e. confirmation group  
625ish pledged for 2024 ...17%increase in # of pledgers  
Christina asked about a possible video for new members / non-members to inform about generosity, pledging, legacy, ministry partners, and all the differences – possibly add to website

Bill – Next meeting Oct 9<sup>th</sup>

Alf - Closing prayer

## **Worship Committee Minutes:**

Tuesday, September 3, 2024

*In Person: Alf H., Ginny G., Kathryn W., David S., Meliza G., Michael M., Charlie G., Nancy B., Tracy S.*

*By Video: Dillon S., Steffanie D.*

### **MOTION TO PASS OFFERING PLATES 2x/MONTH**

- MOTION PASSED

**Here are the dates for twice a month except for December:**

- Sept 15 / Oct 6 & 20 / Nov 3 & 17
- Dec 1, (skip Dec 15<sup>th</sup>), Dec 24 (Xmas Eve) / Dec 29 (last Sun of the year)

### **MOTION TO ADD A CONTEMPORARY XMAS EVE SERVICE @ 2PM**

- MOTION PASSED

- New 2024 Xmas Eve Schedule:
  - 2p – Contemporary Candlelight svc
  - 4p – Family Svc (no candles / Petting Zoo available from 2:30p – 8p)
  - 5:30 / 7:00 / 8:30 Traditional Candlelight svcs

## **REGULAR AGENDA ITEMS**

- **Oct 6<sup>th</sup> – WORLD COMMUNION SUNDAY** - At all 3 English svcs, we will show a video of Alf partaking in Communion while in China.
- **Nov 10<sup>th</sup> – VETERANS' DAY WEEKEND** – We will add a Veterans' video on Nov 10<sup>th</sup>.

## **Young Adult Committee Minutes:**

*September 15th, 2024, | 12:15 -2pm | MDPC Room 122*

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**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:
  - Table Setup: Megan and Sally
  - Final Touches, including Food/Drinks and Cleanup: Edneia and Nicholas
  - 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.