



## SESSION DOCUMENTS

Fri, Jan 24, 2025

# Memorial Drive Presbyterian Church

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

## Session Meeting Agenda

January 24, 2025



### Strategic Goals

2023-2028



1. **Call to Order and Opening Prayer** (Alf Halvorson)
2. **Establishment of Quorum** (Kelly Handel)
3. **Treasurer's Report** (Chris Arend and Marcus Vajdos)
  - 2024 Year-End Update and Overage
4. **Legacy Funding Update** (Nathan Stedham and Marcus Vajdos)
  - **Motion** to approve common area furniture recommended by the Legacy Committee on November 13, 2024, for an amount not to exceed \$99,000.
5. **Second Reading of the 2025 Budget** (Chris Arend and Marcus Vajdos)
  - **Motion** to approve the 2025 Budget as presented.
6. **Omnibus Motion**
  - a. **Motion** to approve the minutes of the December 14, 2024, Session Meeting
  - b. **Motion** to approve the following baptisms performed in January 2025:

Name	Age	Parents	Member	Date
Abigail Danielle Shindler	Infant	Danielle Petrosky and Dillon Shindler	Yes-both	1/19/25 Sprinkle

**c. Transfers and Dismissals**

Please transfer the following active members:

**Miller, Andrew** and **Laura** to Bayou City Fellowship of Tomball, TX.

**d. Motion to approve Outreach Partner funding for January 2025 as follows:**

**Outreach Ministry**

Consent Agenda items:

**1. 2025 Congregational Collection Approval**

- Palm Sunday Offering (Living Water International)
- Mission Market (Partners to be finalized in Fall 2025)
- Christmas Eve Offering (Partners to be finalized in Fall 2025)

**2. Outreach Ministry- Funding Report for December**

**a. Mission Market 2024 (\$20,982.68 divided by purchaser selection)**

- The Antioch Partners \$1,151.05
- Bayou City Blessings in a Backpack \$691.05
- Bridges to Life \$526.05
- Camp for All \$1,276.05
- Casa de Esperanza de los Ninos \$591.84
- Casa El Buen Samaritano \$446.05
- Faith in Practice \$2,371.70
- Free Wheelchair Mission \$1,663.05
- Joy Ride Center \$711.04
- Living Water International \$4,771.60
- Local Infant Formula for Emergencies (LIFE) \$991.04
- Lulwanda Children's Home \$1,173.04
- The Micah Project \$1,453.04
- Open Door Mission \$1,446.04
- Pars Theological Center \$1,720.04

**b. Christmas Eve 2024 (\$42,353.72 distributed proportionately based on missionary funding level)**

- Urban Catalyst, Designated: Justin Elder \$1,841.47
- The Antioch Partners, Designated: Adair \$5,524.40
- Frontier Fellowship, Designated: Biru \$3,682.93
- CRU, Designated: Missionary #0638840 \$1,841.47
- Steven and Natalie Hall \$3,682.93
- Frontiers, Designated: Missionary #004554 \$3,682.93
- YWAM, Designated: Personal Support (Johnson) \$3,682.93

- Allegro Organizational Solutions, Designated: Acct# NYC-BB.KSJ \$1,841.47
- The Antioch Partners, Designated: Leina & Salam \$3,682.93
- Action International Ministries, Designated: Acct# 47001 \$3,682.93
- Frontier Fellowship, Designated: Mc Nerney \$3,682.93
- Pioneers, Designated: Acct# 112440 \$1,841.47
- Novo Mission Inc., Designated: Acct# 6781 Zovak \$3,682.93

**7. 2025 Calendar Reminders**

January 26	Alf Halvorson Preaching  Communion
January 27-29	ECO National Gathering  Highland Park Presbyterian, Dallas, TX
February 2	Alf Halvorson Preaching
February 9	Alf Halvorson Preaching
February 16	Alf Halvorson Preaching
February 22-23	Church in the City
February 24	Session Meeting in Chapel, 6:30 p.m.
March 2	Annual Congregational Meeting 12:30 p.m. in Fellowship Hall

**2025 Session Meeting Dates**

January 24  
 February 24  
 March 24  
 April 28  
 May 19  
 June 23  
*July -No Meeting*  
 August 25  
 September 22  
 October 27  
*November- No Meeting*  
 December 15

**8. Announcements and Additional Business**

- Communion Volunteers Needed- Signup Genius link can be found in Officer Resources
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**9. Adjournment & Closing Prayer (Alf Halvorson)**

- **Motion** to adjourn the January 2025 Session Meeting.

MINUTES OF THE STATED MEETING OF THE SESSION  
Memorial Drive Presbyterian Church  
December 2024

**Elders Present:** Jeannie Able, Chris Arend, Rick Bradford, Tom Braschayko, Ellen Davidson, Bob Davis, Stephanie Espinoza, Ginny French, Bob Holloway, Alex Knoop, Madison Limbacher, Michael McCormack, Christina Morse, Kathy Redden, Sharon Roark, David Shelfer, Leslie Sloan, Nathan Stedham, Joe Stockdale, Bill Swenson, Jeff Taylor, Ryan Taylor, Mandy Todd, Tom Braschayko, Mariel Braun, Michael Kringel

**Elders Excused:** Sandy Ballard, Jennifer Fernelius, Michael Kringel, Marc Laney, Tarryn Lankford, Stefano Lugo

**Elders Absent:** Mariel Braun, Rafael Moreira, Mike Pelton, Kyle Wienert Mat Yelvington

**New Officers Present:** Rick Chapman, Olga Griffin, Bob Larson, Kim Oswald, Peggy Samuels

**Pastors Present:** Dan Aikins, Beth Case, Almir Dias, Alf Halvorson, Rachel Poysky,

**Other Staff Present:** Amy Delgado, Meliza Gomez, Sally Henien, 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 6:30 pm in the Chapel. She opened with a reading from Luke 2 and prayer.

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

**New Members:** (Dan Aikins and Almir Dias)

*Alyssa Davis, Luke Davis, Chris McClurkin, Tom McClurkin, Judy Memmel, Marla Morais, Mateus Morais, Nancy Polis, Amy Waltz*

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

Dan invited the candidates to introduce themselves, starting with those online and then in the chapel, telling Session why they were attracted to MDPC and one place they want to serve. Beth then asked the candidates to affirm their belief in Jesus Christ as Savior and Lord, that they would be disciples and commit themselves to active membership here at MDPC. Beth then asked for the motion listed above, which was made and seconded. The motion was approved unanimously and with great joy. Pastor Almir Dias prayed a blessing over our newest members in Portuguese and dismissed them with the invitation to remain for the duration of the meeting.

**Christmas Conversation:** (Alf Halvorson)

Alf read to us an excerpt from a book by author, theologian, Presbyterian minister, Frederick Buechner, as we were asked to close our eyes and listen.

**Clerk's Report:** (Bob Holloway)

**Treasurer's Report:** (Bob Davis)

**First Reading of the 2025 Budget** (Marcus Vajdos)

**Legacy Funding Update** (Marcus Vajdos)

**2025 Housing Allowances** (Marcus Vajdos)

**Motion approved - Housing Allowance amounts for MDPC's Ordained Staff effective 1/1/2025:**

Dan Aikins	\$43,250
Clay Brown	\$49,200
Beth Case	\$46,000
Almir Dias	\$30,000
Alf Halvorson	\$55,000
Sally Henein	\$27,420
Brett Hurst	\$32,000
Michael Middleton	\$58,005
Rachel Poysky	\$40,000
Guillermo Yela	\$45,004

**Farewell to the Class of 2024**

We welcomed new Officers from the Class of 2027, both Elders and Deacons, that were present with us: *Rick Chapman, Bob Larson, Kim Oswald, Peggy Samuels*

***We bid farewell to the Class of 2024: Rick Bradford, Tom Braschayko, Mariel Braun, Bob Davis, Bob Holloway, Kathy Redden, Dillon Shindler, Bill Swenson, Jeff Taylor, Mandy Todd.***

Each took a couple of minutes to give their thoughts on their time of service. Thank you- you will be missed!

**Omnibus Agenda:**

Beth introduced the Omnibus Motion below for December and 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 October 28, 2024, Session Meeting
- b. **Motion** to approve the minutes of the called November 10, 2024, Session Meeting for the purpose of receiving 2024 Confirmands as new Covenant Partners of MDPC.
- c. **Motion:** to approve the terms of service for the following members of the Columbarium Committee:  
 Class A: Cindy and Bob Holloway, Will Schroeter | January 1, 2025-December 31, 2027  
 Class B: Cindy and Buzz Jochetz, Sue and Joe Warren | January 1, 2023-December 31, 2025  
 Class C: Ann and Bob Croyle | January 1, 2024- December 31, 2026
- d. **Motion** to approve the following baptisms performed in November (12) and December (6) ,2024:

Name	Age	Parents	Member	Date
Camille Brown	Youth	Julie and Hunter Brown	Yes-both	11/10/2024 Immersion
Molly Elizabeth Ebbs	Youth	Blair and Charles Ebbs	Yes- both	11/10/2024 Immersion
Bonnie Mercedes Humphreys	Child	Margaret and Jonathan Humphreys	Yes-both	11/10/2024 Immersion
Elizabeth Blakely Swoboda	Youth	Julie and Blake Swoboda	Yes-both	11/10/2024 Immersion
Ashley Claire Drum	Youth	Laura and Hayden Drum	Yes-both	11/10/2024 Immersion
Coralyn Hope Collins	Youth	Michelle and Jeremiah Collins	Yes-both	11/10/2024 Immersion

Joel David Collins	Youth	Michelle and Jeremiah Collins	Yes-both	11/10/2024 Immersion
Christian William Nafziger	Youth	Shauna and Matthew Nafziger	No-Attendees	11/10/2024 Immersion
Lyla Marie Storms (Confirmand)	Youth	Mary Beth and Jonathan Storms	No	11/10/2024 Immersion
Carter Jennings (Confirmand)	Youth	Angela and Thomas Jennings	Yes-both	11/10/2024 Immersion
Luke Simon Aboorvanathan	Infant	Ruth and Raphael Aboorvanathan	Yes-both	11/10/2024 Sprinkle
Isla Jean Rogers	Infant	Morgan and Steven Rogers	Yes-both	11/10/2024 Sprinkle
Millie Grace Brock	Infant	Katharine and Michael Brock	Yes-both	12/15/2024 sprinkle
Stratton James Dungan	Infant	Leigh Lloveras and Thomas Dungan	Yes- Mom	12/15/2024 sprinkle
Jameson Asher Breaux	Child	Natasha and James Breaux	Yes-both	12/15/2024 sprinkle
Amelia Susan Morris	Infant	Amanda Grace and Stephen Morris	Yes-both	12/15/2024 sprinkle
Georgia Grace Zimmer	infant	Morgan and William Zimmer	Yes-Mom	12/15/2024 sprinkle
Collins Campbell Zimmer	Child	Morgan and William Zimmer	Yes-Mom	12/15/2024 sprinkle

**e. Motion to approve the following changes (made in committee 11-18-24) to the 2025 Baptism Calendar:**

1. Immersion added to the March 2<sup>nd</sup> date
2. Immersion removed from Mother's Day and added to Father's Day
3. A Baptism Sunday of October 12<sup>th</sup> was added and will include both sprinkle and immersion
4. Restrictions placed on Confirmation Sunday to include a. 8:30- sprinkle only for anyone; b. 9:30 sprinkle and immersion for Confirmands Only; 11:15 sprinkle and immersion for anyone

**f. Transfers and Dismissals**

Please transfer the following active members:

**Campbell**, Sarah Shelton to First United Methodist Church, Fort Worth, TX.

**Ormond**, Eric and Katie to First Presbyterian Church of Tulsa, OK.

Please dismiss the following active member:

**Herrington**, Jim due to a move outside the city.

**Horne**, Leslie due to a move outside the city.

**g. Motion to approve Outreach Partner funding for December 2024 as follows:**

**December Consent Agenda items:**

**1. Partner Funding Recommendations**

**Designated**

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Open Door Mission

\$45,000

CFH

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The Beacon	\$5,000		CFH
<b>Totaling:</b>	<b>\$50,000</b>		

## 2. Outreach - Additional Funding Recommendations\*

### Designated

### Priority

\*Funding will be distributed down the list in the order presented below until all available funding is assigned.

The Beacon	\$8,000	Condenser Unit of Walk-In Freezer	CFH	1
Fuller Theological Seminary	\$20,000	Hurricane Beryl repairs	DE	2
International Cooperating Ministries (ICM)	\$16,600	Chinese Churches	Global	3
Magnificat houses	\$6,000	Three AED Machines	HSN	4
Kids Meals	\$6,280	AC/Refrigeration Units for Kids' Meals Meal Delivery Van	SBH	5
Generation One	\$4,800	Sound Proofing Split Classrooms	CFH	6
Cho-Yeh Camp & Conf Center	\$20,000	Storm damage/flood repair	DE	7
Pars Theological Center	\$25,000	Formation Conference	Global	8
Be An Angel	\$10,000	Adaptive Equipment and Hearing Aids	HSN	9
East Spring Branch Food Pantry	\$15,000	Food storage unit - cooler and freezer	SBH	10
Galveston Urban Ministries	\$4,000	Roof Painting & wrapping for van	CFH	11
Bridges to Life	\$8,000	Restoring Peace books for incarcerated participants in BTL program	DE	12
Grace International Children's Foundation	\$15,000	Lulwanda Children's Home - Water Well	Global	13
Amazing Place	\$10,000	Caregivers retreat	HSN	14
Street Grace	\$15,000	Retreat for Survivors	Initiatives	15
Blessings in a Backpack	\$1,405	Bayou City - Shelving and dollies for Food Pantry	SBH	16
SEARCH	\$5,200	House of Tiny Treasures - 4 laptops & warranties	CFH	17
Camp Blessing	\$17,500	Winch lift system	DE	18
Faith in Practice	\$10,000	Warehouse Move	Global	19
Houston Area Parkinsons Society	\$10,000	In-home respite care	HSN	20
LIFE Houston	\$5,000	Formula restocking (Match grant)	SBH	21
Outreach Center of West Houston	\$5,000	Restore & upgrade lighting in Auditorium	CFH	22
Camp for All	\$21,765	Replace one chiller compressor in main building	DE	23
Faith Ministry	\$2,000	Berea Bible Institute - Refrigerator	Global	24
Senior Rides and more	\$2,000	Emergency Food needs	HSN	25
Mission of Yahweh	\$18,000	Room remodels in The Mercy House	SBH	26
Buckner Children and Family Services	\$14,000	Northside Location - Van	CFH	27
Loving Houston	\$5,000	Facilitator to conduct Trainings/Retreat	DE	28
Nueva Vida	\$4,000	Laptops for Staff	Global	29



Parent Project MD	\$5,000	Mom's retreat scholarships	HSN	30
Street Grace	\$25,000	Youth Education Initiative	Initiatives	31
Nabor House Community	\$2,000	Scholarship for Ten Months of Emergency Assistance	SBH	32
Yellowstone Schools	\$10,000	New HVAC	CFH	33
Home Encouragement	\$5,000	Scholarships	DE	34
Bible Presbyterian Ministry Uganda	\$25,000	Mbale, Uganda - New Van	Global	35
ECHOS	\$10,500	Technology needs	HSN	36
Kids Meals	\$6,000	500 insulated delivery bags	SBH	37
Small Steps Nurturing Center	\$5,000	Gulfton Campus Playground Turf Installation	CFH	38
Camp Aranzazu	\$10,000	Digital radios	DE	39
Pars Theological Center	\$10,000	Student Sponsorship	Global	40
Joyride	\$5,000	Equine Care Costs	HSN	41
Salvation Army	\$7,350	Houston - 150 Shelter Support Sets	SBH	42
Agape Development	\$5,000	Playground Shade Covering	CFH	43
Stoney Creek Ranch	\$10,000	New Kabota or Mule for nurse	DE	44
YWAM Budapest	\$12,000	Recording Studio	Global	45
His Grace Foundation	\$6,750	Financial Assistance	HSN	46
Spring Branch Community Health Ctr	\$10,500	Open new pediatric services at Hillendahl Comm Health Center	SBH	47
Family Point Resources	\$1,974	Equipment Needing Replacement	CFH	48
The Get Together	\$4,000	Site Visit Luncheons at partner ministry sites	DE	49
FEBC	\$15,000	New Ministry Center in Cambodia	Global	50
His Grace Foundation	\$10,000	Apartment Rental Assistance	HSN	51
Nabor House Community	\$2,000	Playground Improvements at both Nabor House locations	SBH	52
The Forge for Families	\$2,500	HVAC Replacement in Gym	CFH	53
FIND	\$6,000	Scholarships	DE	54
The Antioch Partners	\$10,000	Partner Special Needs Fund	Global	55
Joyride	\$10,000	Tuition Assistance Program	HSN	56
Blessings in a Backpack	\$5,000	Bayou City - Weekend Food for Students at 13 Elementary Schools	SBH	57
Generation One	\$1,800	Dishwasher Installation	CFH	58
Theology by the Pint	\$2,000	New merchandise and marketing materials	DE	59
The Micah Project	\$20,000	Technical School Building	Global	60
Vita Living	\$15,000	Activity Center/Day Program Renovation Expenses	HSN	61
Cornerstone Family Ministries	\$10,000	Used 3/4-ton truck purchase.	SBH	62
Family Point Resources	\$2,680	Items to Improve Programs	CFH	63
Spring Branch Community Health Ctr	\$6,000	OB/GYN equipment for Katy Community Health Center	SBH	64
Faith Ministry	\$9,000	Berea Bible Institute - New Truck	Global	65
CarePartners	\$5,000	New Ovens	HSN	66

Santa Maria Hostel	\$12,500	New flooring and installation for Bonita House Lobby	SBH	67
The Forge for Families	\$2,500	HVAC Replacement in Gym (Part 2)	CFH	68
Camp Aranzazu	\$5,000	New benches for the bayfront	DE	69
The Outreach Foundation	\$15,000	Novus Foundation - Scholarships for Ukrainian Women	Global	70
Amazing Place	\$10,000	Technology needs	HSN	71
Mission of Yahweh	\$10,000	New AC and ductwork in the Resale Shop	SBH	72
Yellowstone Schools	\$10,000	New HVAC (Part 2)	CFH	73
Stoney Creek Ranch	\$4,000	New Computers	DE	74
Grace International Children's Foundation	\$5,500	Lulwanda Children's Home - Solar Power Batteries	Global	75
Lifehouse	\$1,500	LifeHouse Patio Project- Furniture	HSN	76
Interfaith Ministries	\$18,000	Electric Walkie Stacker for MOW Midtown Houston warehouse	SBH	77
Buckner Children and Family Services	\$6,000	Northside Location - Van (Part 2)	CFH	78
Camp Cho-Yeh	\$7,500	Rebuilding bridge between campsites	DE	79
Faith in Practice	\$5,000	Vital Medicines for Surgery	Global	80
His Grace Foundation	\$2,000	CRM System	HSN	81
Kids Meals	\$6,000	500 insulated delivery bags (Part 2)	SBH	82
Outreach Center of West Houston	\$5,000	Restore & upgrade lighting in Auditorium (Part 2)	CFH	83
The Get Together	\$1,200	"Coffee with a Cause" trainings	DE	84
International Cooperating Ministries (ICM)	\$16,600	New Church Building	Global	85
Lifehouse	\$2,500	LifeHouse Patio Project	HSN	86
Houston Achievement Place	\$4,000	Project CLASS Spanish Translations	SBH	87
Galveston Urban Ministries	\$4,000	Roof Painting & wrapping for van (Part 2)	CFH	88
Bridges to Life	\$5,111	Restoring Peace books for incarcerated participants in BTL program (Part 2)	DE	89
Team Expansion	\$10,000	Marketplace Ministry #3000 GCC - Pool Renovation for Baptism	Global	90
Lifehouse	\$5,000	LifeHouse- Apartment Renovations (patio project)	HSN	91
Aid to Victims of Domestic Abuse	\$10,000	Funding for legall representation for AVDA clients	SBH	92
SEARCH	\$5,200	House of Tiny Treasures - 4 laptops & warranties (Part 2)	CFH	93
Theology by the Pint	\$5,000	Program events in The Woodlands, Sugar Land and Kingwood.	DE	94
The Micah Project	\$10,000	New Gym	Global	95
Magnificat houses	\$10,000	Shower trailer	HSN	96

Cornerstone Family Ministries	\$5,000	Community Nights Additional Funding	SBH	97
Small Steps Nurturing Center	\$5,000	Gulfton Campus Playground Turf Installation (Part 2)	CFH	98
Camp Blessing	\$11,000	New pedal cars and repairs for aqua cycle and pontoon paddle boats	DE	99
Renewing Our Minds	\$5,000	Gathering for Ukrainians Displaced by War	Global	100
Joyride	\$10,000	Veterans in Operation Equine	HSN	101
Kids Meals	\$6,000	500 insulated delivery bags (Part 3)	SBH	102
Agape Development	\$5,000	Playground Shade Covering (Part 2)	CFH	103
Camp Aranzazu	\$4,000	New pool loungers	DE	104
International Cooperating Ministries (ICM)	\$16,600	New Church Building	Global	105
CarePartners	\$20,000	CRM System	HSN	106
Camp for All	\$10,000	Camper Mattresses	DE	107
Family Point Resources	\$2,680	Items to Improve Programs (Part 2)	CFH	108
Stoney Creek Ranch	\$5,000	New Kabota or Mule for nurse (Part 2)	DE	109
Renewing Our Minds	\$4,000	Conference on Creation Care	Global	110
Aid to Victims of Domestic Abuse	\$10,000	Host a family event to increase parent-child interactions	SBH	111
Buckner Children and Family Services	\$10,000	Northside Location - Van (Part 3)	CFH	112
Kids Meals	\$6,280	AC/Refrigeration Units for Kids' Meals Meal Delivery Van (Part 2)	SBH	113
Yellowstone Schools	\$10,000	New HVAC (Part 3)	CFH	114
Mission of Yahweh	\$28,000	Roof on The Sister Gay building for Women and Children.	SBH	115
The Forge for Families	\$2,500	HVAC Replacement in Gym (Part 3)	CFH	116
Cornerstone Family Ministries	\$3,000	After-School Program Scholarship Fund	SBH	117
Outreach Center of West Houston	\$5,000	Restore & upgrade lighting in Auditorium (Part 3)	CFH	118
Spring Branch Community Health Ctr	\$13,300	New equipment for pediatric and adult medicine	SBH	119
Buckner Children and Family Services	\$5,000	Northside Location - Van (Part 4)	CFH	120
Santa Maria Hostel	\$3,100	New conference room chairs	SBH	121
Small Steps Nurturing Center	\$5,000	Gulfton Campus Playground Turf Installation (Part 3)	CFH	122
Aid to Victims of Domestic Abuse	\$10,000	Funding for Community Awareness & Prevention Program	SBH	123
Agape Development	\$5,000	Playground Shade Covering (Part 3)	CFH	124
Interfaith Ministries	\$23,439	Standby Generator for Galveston MOW warehouse	SBH	125
Outreach Center of West Houston	\$5,000	Restore & upgrade lighting in Auditorium (Part 4)	CFH	126

Salvation Army	\$10,000	Shelter and Care for 10 homeless veterans in Houston	SBH	127
Yellowstone Schools	\$10,000	New HVAC (Part 4)	CFH	128
Kids Meals	\$6,280	AC/Refrigeration Units for Kids' Meals Meal Delivery Van (Part 3)	SBH	129
Salvation Army	\$6,000	Utility Assistance for 30 Houston Families	SBH	130
<b>Totaling:</b>		<b>\$1,112,894</b>		

### **Calendar Reminders**

December 22 Alf Halvorson Preaching| 4th Sunday in Advent  
December 24 Alf Halvorson Preaching| Christmas Eve|  
Candlelight: 2:00, 5:30, 7:00 and 8:30pm.  
Family Christmas Eve 4:00pm  
December 29 Beth Case Preaching | Final Sunday of 2024  
January 5 Clay Brown Preaching

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

New Officer Installation- January 12  
Officer and Staff Retreat – January 24-25 at MDPC  
ECO National Gathering – January 27-January 29, 2025| Highland Park Presbyterian, Dallas, TX

### **Announcements and Additional Business**

Christmas Eve-parking for leadership at Second Baptist University Model noon to 10 pm

**A Motion** to adjourn the December 2024 Session Meeting was made at 7:45.

Rachel Poysky guided us to pray in groups of three with each praying specifically for: 1. the people in your group 2. concerns in our world. 3. Christmas Eve.

Minutes respectfully submitted on behalf of Bob Holloway, Clerk.

Jennifer Vajdos, December 2024

## Combined Minutes of the Session Committees January 2025

### **Caring Ministries Committee Minutes:**

*Note: January 21<sup>st</sup> meeting was cancelled due to weather, but ministry reports were still submitted.*

### **Ministry Reports**

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

- The five dedicated Prayer Chain writers took turns writing to those on the Prayer Chain list.

#### **Community Relations**

- **Dates and speakers for our Hot Topics Series are as follows:**
  - **January 16, Time Mavergeorge -- Mind Matters: Calm in the Chaos**
  - **January 30, a panel led by Luke Funderburk -- social media: Clicks & Consequences**
  - **February 27, Chris Arend -- AI: Description, Impact & Safeguards**
  - **March 27, Lt. Roy Guinn -- Identity Theft and Scams: Protect Yourself**

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

- The Gathering Place met the second Wednesday of January. We had 9 care partners, 8 caregivers, and 12 volunteers this month. We also had 3 Caring Ministries staff helping during the day. The service project activity was to package beans for the Fuente Food Pantry, which was a big success. Nancy Blurton led the group in New Year's exercise activities, complete with confetti balloons and styrofoam noodles. Dawn Manachino was the energetic entertainer and Beth Case gave the devotional. Lunch was served, and Bingo was played.
- **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 Olga Griffin.

#### **Grief Support:**

- **Transforming Grief:** The spring series of the Transforming Grief program has begun. They are meeting 3:00-4:30pm on Wednesday afternoons, Jan. 15 – Mar 5. The facilitators are John Kemper and Christine Gentil.
- **The Widows Connection:** The Widows Connection continues to meet for lunch on the third Tuesday of each month. Women's Ministry and the Widows Connection will host a special "Galentine" celebration on Feb 13.
- **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:**

- The next MDPC blood drive is scheduled for Sunday, February 9<sup>th</sup> from 10:00 AM- 2:30 PM in the Fellowship Hall. We're thankful to Gulf Coast Regional Blood Center for their presence and professionalism, and to Debbie Cordell and Nancy Kimmey for their dedication, organization, and friendly hosting. Other dates in 2025 for MDPC Blood Drives are: June 8 and October 26.

#### **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 did not meet in the month of December but still checked in on our homebound members over the holidays. We were sad to lose two of our longtime members on the visitation roster in December.
- 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:

- December – 1 memorial service with reception at MDPC. There was 1 inurnment service in the Columbarium.

### Prayer Ministry:

- Each covenant partner of MDPC is prayed for daily by a team of **Partners in Prayer (PiP)** that currently numbers 500. Each PiP also prays for an Outreach Partner.
  - Annette Erickson and Diann Turet continue to facilitate the electronic and organization portion of this ministry. We depend on their excellence and responsive edits!
  - The majority of PiP's depend on email and/or the MDPC App for their lists. However, hard copies may be requested of Annette Erickson.
  - Daily Prayers for 2025 were offered by Pastor Beth Case and are based on the Sunday School Curriculum written by Pastor Clay Brown: *The Gospel in David's Life*.
- Pastors Beth Case and Jeanmarie Tade will host a **Prayer & Art Retreat** at the MFAH. This is a joint MDPC/FPC event, and all are welcome: Wednesday, February 12, 9:00am - 2:30pm. Cost: entry fee to the museum (\$24 / seniors \$20); lunch (or brown bag it)!

### Second Family:

- There was no Second Family team meeting in December due to the holidays, but volunteers still spent over 100 hours on Second Family duties throughout the month.
- Mobile Meals were provided to 3-4 recipients on Mondays and Thursdays in December, except for the days that the MDPC kitchen was closed for the holidays. Frozen soups and entrees were provided to the the MM recipients for that period.

### Senior Adult Ministry:

- The monthly **Senior Adult newsletter** is mailed to about 154 families. 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). Research shows that "Strong social connection is one of the most accurate predictions of a person's long-term wellness."
- **Venturers:** At the December Christmas Party, Giving Tree donations were made: \$1050 to Amazing Place, and \$1703 to Brookwood Community. On January 6, thirty-eight heard Jonathan McComb talk about the Wimberly Flood tragedy for him and his family. On February 3, Robert Westheimer will talk about the Houston Holocaust Museum.
- **Encore Fellowship:** On December 17, thirty-four went to Pam Jolley's and Bill Runte's home for a happy hour Christmas Party. On January 13, thirty attended a wine tasting at Vine Memorial.
- **Prime Timers:** On January 15, eleven people went the to Museum of Fine Arts to see the Gauguin exhibit. A visit is planned to Blue Willow Bookshop February 19.
- **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. On December 3, Rosemary Armstrong played Christmas Carols, and the group sang along. The next meeting is planned for January 21 (moved from January 20, because of MLK holiday).

**Stephen Ministry:** The Stephen Ministry teams at MDPC and Grace Presbyterian gathered at Grace on 12/10/24 for a special combined Christmas dinner and communion service. There was no supervision meeting in December due to the holidays. 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 can be sent to Beverly Fluke in Caring Ministries.

#### **Deacons:**

- New Deacons were installed at worship services on Sunday, January 12, 2025 and the first Deacons meeting was held that afternoon.
- Among the 2027 class of Deacons, 3 of the 7 are Deacons for Caring Ministries. A grand welcome to the following:
  - Dementia/Caregivers – Olga Griffin
  - Second Family/Mobile Meals – Barbara Mueller
  - Prayer Ministry – Terral Cesak

**Other:** Caring Ministries will host a **Memory Enhancement Training** class taught by Amazing Place on Feb 4 & 11. For questions or to register, contact Pam Berkley: [pberkley@amazingplacehouston.org](mailto:pberkley@amazingplacehouston.org), 713-581-6973.

**Next CM Meeting:** Tuesday, February 18<sup>th</sup>, at 10:00 AM in room 101

#### **Generosity Committee Minutes:**

January 15<sup>th</sup> – 12 p.m. – Pastors Conference Room

Attendees: Jeannie Able, Alf Halvorson, Michael McCormack, Kyle Wienert, Ginny Glass, Marcus Vajdos, Carla Bradford, Lance Dardis, Josh Weber, Colby Mueck, Nathan Stedham, Hunter Smith, Kate Brock, Ava Caliendo

##### Agenda & Notes

- Opening Prayer (Michael)
- Introductions
- 2025 Pledge Update (Ava)
- 2025 Campaign Review
  - Positives
  - Improvements
- 2026 Campaign Ideas/Thoughts
- Meeting Time/Date/Location Discussion
- Old/New Business ○ Metric Discussion (February)
- Closing Prayer

#### **Legacy Committee Minutes:**

Wednesday, Nov 11, 2024- Pastors Conference Room

**In attendance:** Bill Swenson, Dena Bankett, Nathan Stedham, Joe Stockdale, Marcus Vajdos, Alf Halvorson, Cy Cattam, and Ginny Glass

**Absent:** Bob Davis, Melinda Jackson, and Tarryn Lankford

Marcus presented five funding requests for Legacy to consider:

New Tables (\$10K)

New Sanctuary Lobby monitors (\$10K)

New furniture for five common area spaces and the Pastor's Conference Room (\$96K)

Remodel of Caring Ministries offices

A remodel of the existing dumpster area to include a cover

The committee approved the tables, the monitor, and the new furniture, but decided to hold off on Caring Ministries offices and the dumpster project.

The meeting was closed in prayer.

Minutes Prepared by Ginny Glass

## **Young Adult Committee Minutes:**

January 19, 2025, Room 122

**Connect | Grow | Engage**

### *PARTICIPANTS*

Matthew Adair, Sally Henien,  
Lacey Dusek, Georgia Drager,  
Edneia Moreira, Argentina  
Barrios, Nicholas Okai,  
Rachel Poysky, Dan Aikins

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**Session started at 12:15pm** - Edneia opened the session with prayers blessing our time and new year ahead.

**Icebreaker:** We did a team check in on how they are doing Personally and work. The group shared how they are doing and overall, everyone is doing well and excited about the year ahead.

### **Items Discussed:**

1. Sally began the discussion reminding the group about YA vision and purpose sharing about:

#### **Identity, Belonging, and Purpose:**

- Focus on helping people discover their identity, belonging, and purpose.
- Encourage participants to bring their own thoughts, opinions, and questions.
- Build relationships through shared experiences and perspectives, particularly through the gospel.

#### **Connecting Relationally + Grow Biblically + Engage Missionally:**

- Emphasize the importance of being intentional in inviting others to events.
- Encourage leaders to invite people to connect events, Bible studies, and other opportunities.
- Highlight the importance of sparking spiritual conversations in everyday interactions.



2. Sally also shared details about YA upcoming events:

### **Steiger Mission Trip:**

- **Dates:** March 7-16, with a weekend option on March 7-9 in Austin.
- Activities include prayer, worship, teaching, and creative evangelism in Austin, Texas at the South by Southwest Music & Film Festival. Great opportunity for YAs to practice sharing their faith with others + also serving with other churches (2 from Houston are also going) + others from around the globe.
- Registration deadline: February 5.

### **Young Adults Budapest, Hungary Mission Trip:**

- **Dates:** May 17-26.
- Activities like previous trips, including Coffee House ministry and street ministry.
- Registration deadline: End of March.

### **Worship Night:**

- **Date:** January 30, **Time:** 7:00-9:00 PM in the Chapel.
- Led by Michael Meliza and his band, focusing on worship and prayer – theme (God is making all things new – connecting it with Alf's sermon series for the start of 2025). More details and support needed will be shared later by Sally.

### **BAM - Business as Missions Breakfast:**

- **Date:** February 7<sup>th</sup> **Time:** Breakfast: 7:00 AM - 7:30 AM | Program: 7:30 AM - 8:30 AM
- **Details:** Free breakfast, but registration required for headcount. Guest speaker will discuss integrating ministry into various professions (e.g., engineering, teaching, business). Focus on viewing business as a platform for global ministry.

3. Pastor Dan joined the meeting and shared more about Alpha at MDPC. Focusing the discussion on how to integrate evangelism and young adult outreach. As well how to focus on identity, belonging, and purpose in discussions with college students. Below are the highlights shared:

- **Purpose of Alpha:**

- Designed to support discipleship in young adult ministry.
- Encourages open conversations about spiritual matters.
- Participants often leave more open to spiritual discussions, even if they don't immediately come to faith.

- **Target Audience:**

- Open to everyone, especially those outside the church, new to faith, or re-exploring Christianity.
- Not suitable for mature disciples seeking in-depth Bible study or those looking to argue.
- **Structure and Experience:**
  - 10–11-week course with hospitality, conversation, and prayer.
  - Participants engage in spiritual conversations, often for the first time.
  - Includes an optional weekend focused on the Holy Spirit and prayer ministry.
- **Integration with Church Activities:**
  - Best suited for individuals already somewhat connected to the church.
  - Effective as a follow-up invitation after initial church events or interactions.
- **Outcomes:**
  - Moves participants closer to Jesus, even if they don't come to faith during the course.
  - Often leads to faith through subsequent church interactions and ministries.
- **Example:**
  - Amanda Austin: Experienced a powerful encounter with Jesus during Alpha but came to faith later through conversations with young adults at the church.

4. The group agreed for the next meeting to be hosted on **February 2<sup>nd</sup>**.

**Closing Prayer:** Dan wrapped up the meeting with a prayer, where the group had the opportunity to pray loud for a friend that came to mind that may be a potential guest we would invite to participate in Alpha.