



SESSION DOCUMENTS

Mon, Feb 24, 2025

Memorial Drive Presbyterian Church

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

Session Meeting Agenda

February 24, 2025



Strategic Goals

2023-2028



1. **Call to Order and Opening Prayer** (Beth Case)
2. **Establishment of Quorum** (Kelly Handel)
3. **New Members** (Dan Aikins)
Ashley Chainani, Laura Fedorko, Ben Fedorko, Debra Garrison, Bekah Gerard, Bryan Gerard, Shelly Gerard, Erin Howard, Jack Howard, Heather Motschman, Chuck Motschman, Audrey Saxe, Kevin Saxe, Kathy Wright, Eileen Zwart
Motion: to receive the above-named friends as Covenant Partners at MDPC.
4. **Emotionally Healthy Leadership** (Alf Halvorson)
5. **Clerk's Report** (Joe Stockdale)
 - ECO National Gathering Recap
6. **Treasurer's Report** (Chris Arend)
7. **Church in the City God-Sightings and Immediate Impressions** (Rachel Poysky and Amy Delgado)
8. **Master Planning Update** (Michael McCormack)

9. Omnibus Motion

- a. **Motion** to approve the minutes of the January 24, 2025, Session Meeting.
- b. **Motion** to approve the Annual Congregational Meeting and Town Hall on Sunday, March 2nd.
- c. **Motion** to dissolve the Budget committee as well as the Audit Committee.
- d. **Motion** to create an Insurance Committee with members of the committee to include the Treasurer, COO, Clerk, Facilities Director, Facilities Elder, and up to three at-large members.

10. 2025 Calendar Reminders

March 2	Alf Halvorson Preaching Sermon Series “All Things New: New Wine” Annual Congregational Meeting 11:00 am & 12:30 pm. in Fellowship Hall
March 5	Ash Wednesday 12pm-Chapel; 7pm-Sanctuary
March 9	Alf Halvorson Preaching First Sunday in Lent Begin Daylight Saving Time
March 16	Alf Halvorson Preaching
March 23	Alf Halvorson Preaching
March 24	Session Meeting 6:30 pm in Chapel
March 30	Alf Halvorson Preaching
April 6	Alf Halvorson Preaching
April 13	Alf Halvorson Preaching Palm Sunday
April 14	The Spoken Word & The Silent Word throughout the week
April 17	Maundy Thursday
April 18	Good Friday
April 20	Alf Halvorson Preaching Easter Sunday

2026 Important Dates

January 23-24 Staff and Officer Retreat

11. Announcements and Additional Business

- Sabbatical Plans – Clay Brown

12. Adjournment & Closing Prayer (Beth Case)

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

**Memorial Drive Presbyterian Church
Balance Sheet Thru January
MDPC Summary Balance Sheet-2025**

Name	January 2025	January 2024
ASSETS		
Unrestricted Cash & Cash Equivalents	3,799,408.35	4,728,837.35
Current Investments (Unrestricted)	1,514,909.04	2,235,275.42
Total Unrestricted Cash & Cash Equivalents	5,314,317.39	6,964,112.77
Current Investments (Restricted)	4,505,915.48	2,421,233.84
Legacy Restricted Cash & Equivalents	4,364,898.18	4,618,079.51
Total Restricted Cash & Equivalents	8,870,813.66	7,039,313.35
Prepaid Expense, Deposits, Inventory	319,579.68	437,603.04
Miscellaneous Receivables	9,974.38	15,349.81
Property & Equipment	57,975,154.21	55,618,502.77
Accumulated Depreciation	(48,937,881.77)	(47,575,114.53)
Note Receivable	-	-
TOTAL ASSETS	23,551,957.55	22,499,767.21
LIABILITIES		
Accounts Payable	1,312,467.99	575,928.36
Other Payables	104,224.70	90,479.82
Prepaid Tuition and Fees	111,932.50	78,189.00
Custodial Accounts	71,522.94	34,360.01
Note Payable-PNC /PPP	-	-
TOTAL LIABILITIES	1,600,148.13	778,957.19
NET ASSETS		
Unrestricted Net Assets	13,145,545.46	12,962,655.40
Temp. Restricted Net Assets	4,071,102.20	2,892,395.38
Perm. Restricted Net Assets	433,857.59	433,857.59
Restricted Legacy Net Assets	4,301,304.17	5,431,901.65
TOTAL NET ASSETS	21,951,809.42	21,720,810.02
TOTAL LIABILITIES & NET ASSETS	23,551,957.55	22,499,767.21

Budgeted Financial Statement for Period 1 - January
SUMMARY INCOME & EXPENSE - 2025
Company#: 1 Name: Memorial Drive Presbyterian Church
Fiscal Year Beginning 1/1/2025

Description	Jan Act	2025 YTD Jan	Jan Bud	Over (Under) Budget	% Variance YTD	Prior YTD 2024	2025 Budget Annual
OPERATING INCOME							
Contributions	\$ 647,670	\$ 647,670	\$ 834,135	\$ (186,464)	-22.35%	\$ 911,949	\$ 14,203,392
Ministry Events Revenue	\$ 370,009	\$ 370,009	\$ 328,838	\$ 41,171	12.52%	\$ 327,122	\$ 3,388,112
Other Operating Income	\$ 7,679	\$ 7,679	\$ 8,333	\$ (654)	-7.85%	\$ 12,031	\$ 100,000
TOTAL OPERATING INCOME	1,025,359	1,025,359	1,171,306	(145,947)	-12.46%	1,251,101	17,691,504
Ministry Operating Expense							
Pastoral Ministry							
Caring Ministry	\$ 30,864	\$ 30,864	\$ 37,788	\$ (6,924)	-18.32%	\$ 34,062	\$ 456,835
Fuente	\$ 11,885	\$ 11,885	\$ 13,200	\$ (1,315)	-9.96%	\$ 14,034	\$ 160,781
Children's Ministry	\$ 59,018	\$ 59,018	\$ 78,132	\$ (19,114)	-24.46%	\$ 59,210	\$ 897,412
Youth Ministry	\$ 41,641	\$ 41,641	\$ 54,828	\$ (13,187)	-24.05%	\$ 36,845	\$ 702,140
Relationships	\$ 23,817	\$ 23,817	\$ 29,547	\$ (5,730)	-19.39%	\$ 28,022	\$ 388,560
Sports and REACH Programs	\$ 16,013	\$ 16,013	\$ 18,252	\$ (2,239)	-12.27%	\$ 16,773	\$ 484,570
Outreach (Admin)	\$ 48,633	\$ 48,633	\$ 56,181	\$ (7,548)	-13.43%	\$ 53,783	\$ 661,504
Adult Discipleship	\$ 31,344	\$ 31,344	\$ 35,213	\$ (3,869)	-10.99%	\$ 31,636	\$ 422,584
Young Adult	\$ 19,072	\$ 19,072	\$ 16,952	\$ 2,120	12.51%	\$ 9,524	\$ 207,510
Worship	\$ 33,096	\$ 33,096	\$ 42,227	\$ (9,131)	-21.62%	\$ 32,886	\$ 482,268
Traditional Music	\$ 33,772	\$ 33,772	\$ 34,764	\$ (992)	-2.85%	\$ 37,654	\$ 450,868
Contemporary Music	\$ 27,341	\$ 27,341	\$ 27,839	\$ (498)	-1.79%	\$ 28,752	\$ 332,968
Brazilian Ministry	\$ 11,580	\$ 11,580	\$ 16,731	\$ (5,151)	-30.79%	\$ 18,748	\$ 200,768
Total Pastoral Ministry	\$ 388,076	\$ 388,076	\$ 461,653	\$ (73,577)	-15.94%	\$ 401,929	\$ 5,848,767
Support Ministry							
Communications & Media	\$ 66,004	\$ 66,004	\$ 73,418	\$ (7,414)	-10.10%	\$ 76,580	\$ 872,794
Administration	\$ 71,771	\$ 71,771	\$ 75,679	\$ (3,908)	-5.16%	\$ 70,845	\$ 929,040
Food Service	\$ 13,510	\$ 13,510	\$ 13,333	\$ 176	1.32%	\$ 12,385	\$ 160,000
Facilities & Technology	\$ 192,823	\$ 192,823	\$ 209,114	\$ (16,291)	-7.79%	\$ 230,541	\$ 2,586,448
The Little School	\$ 104,480	\$ 104,480	\$ 110,797	\$ (6,317)	-5.70%	\$ 100,369	\$ 1,324,610
The Yellow School	\$ 54,022	\$ 54,022	\$ 63,012	\$ (8,990)	-14.27%	\$ 61,952	\$ 768,714
Total Support Ministry	\$ 502,610	\$ 502,610	\$ 545,354	\$ (42,743)	-7.84%	\$ 552,672	\$ 6,641,606
Anticipated Budget Reduction	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	#DIV/0!	\$ -	\$ -
Total Ministry Operating Expense	\$ 890,686	\$ 890,686	\$ 1,007,006	\$ (116,321)	-11.55%	\$ 954,601	\$ 12,490,373
Outreach Expense							
Outreach - Ministry Sponsored	\$ 57,902	\$ 57,902	\$ 75,993	\$ (18,090.98)	-0.24%	\$ 56,686	\$ 1,385,649
Outreach - Ministry Partners	\$ 5,200	\$ 5,200	\$ -	\$ 5,200.00	#DIV/0!	\$ 958	\$ 3,165,481
Total Outreach Expense	\$ 63,102	\$ 63,102	\$ 75,993	\$ (12,890.98)	-0.17%	\$ 57,644	\$ 4,551,130
Other Operating Expense							
Insurance & Legal	\$ 51,460	\$ 51,460	\$ 50,000	\$ 1,460	2.92%	\$ 43,591	\$ 600,000
Capital Additions/Reserve	\$ 4,167	\$ 4,167	\$ 4,167	\$ -	0.00%	\$ 4,167	\$ 50,000
Total Other Operating Expense	\$ 55,627	\$ 55,627	\$ 54,167	\$ 1,460	2.70%	\$ 47,757	\$ 650,000
TOTAL OPERATING EXPENSES	\$ 1,009,414	\$ 1,009,414	\$ 1,137,166	\$ (127,752)	-11.23%	\$ 1,060,002	\$ 17,691,504
Other Income(Loss)							
Total Other Income(Loss)	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	0%	\$ -	\$ -
NET INCOME (LOSS)	\$ 15,944	\$ 15,944	\$ 34,140	\$ (18,196)	0%	\$ 191,099	\$ 1
Restr & Enrichment Inc/(Exp)	\$ (63,720)	\$ (63,720)	\$ -	\$ (63,720)	0%	\$ 184,654	\$ -

MINUTES OF THE STATED MEETING OF THE SESSION
Memorial Drive Presbyterian Church
January 24, 2025

Elders Present: Jeannie Able, Chris Arend, Amanda Austin, Sandy Ballard, Carla Bradford, Rick Chapman, Stephanie Espinoza, Ellen Davidson, Kelly Handel, Michael Kringel, Alex Knoop, Marc Laney, Bob Larson, Madison Limbacher, Hector Longoria, Stefano Lugo, Lisa McChristian, Michael McCormack, Rafael Moreira, Christina Morse, Kim Oswald, Mike Pelton, Rosy Pereira, Nikki Pielop, Sharon Roark, Peggy Samuels, David Shelfer, Hunter Smith, Nathan Stedham, Joe Stockdale, Ryan Taylor, Andre Verona, Kyle Wienert

Elders Excused: Jennifer Fernelius, Ginny French, Tarryn Lankford, Leslie Sloan

Elders Absent: Mat Yelvington

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

Other Staff (Director level and above) and Deacons Present

-the Friday night Session Meeting was held as part of the Annual Staff and Officer Retreat at MDPC-January 24-25.

Call to Order: Pastor Alf Halvorson called the meeting of the Session of Memorial Drive Presbyterian Church to order at 7:44 pm in the Fellowship Hall. He opened with prayer. Alf reminded us of polity and that Elders only vote at Session meetings.

Call for Quorum: The Clerk, Kelly Handel, affirmed that a quorum was present.

Clerk's Report: (Kelly Handel)

Reminder from Jennifer to check in on the MDPC app. We will utilize for future Session meetings in 2025.

Treasurer's Report: (Chris Arend)

2024 Year-End Update and Overage

Goal is for finance numbers to be transparent and to provide checks and balances to mitigate risk

Second Reading of the 2025 Budget (Chris Arend and Marcus Vajdos)

Motion to approve the 2025 Budget as presented. Motion Carried.

Legacy Funding Update (Nathan Stedham and Marcus Vajdos)

Motion presented to approve common area furniture recommended by the Legacy Committee on November 13, 2024, for an amount not to exceed \$99,000. Motion carried.

Omnibus Agenda:

Alf introduced the Omnibus Motion below for January and 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 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: McNerney \$3,682.93
- Pioneers, Designated: Acct# 112440 \$1,841.47
- Novo Mission Inc., Designated: Acct# 6781 Zovak \$3,682.93

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

Announcements and Additional Business

- Communion Volunteers Needed- Signup Genius link can be found in Officer Resources-David Shelfer, Worship Elder, made the announcement regarding need for volunteers as greeters and ushers.
- Amy Delgado made the announcement that they are actively recruiting and receiving applications for five committees, 4 local, 1 global
- Brett Hurst made the announcement that Men’s Life resumes on Tuesday mornings for 3 weeks 2/4, 2/11, 2/18. “Power of one on one conversations”
- Dan Aikins- next New Members Class Friday 1/31 and Sat 2/1 and then again in mid-April.

Adjournment

A Motion to adjourn the January 2025 Session Meeting was made at 8:11 p.m.

Minutes respectfully submitted on behalf of Kelly Handel, Clerk.

By Jennifer Vajdos, Executive Ministries Coordinator, January 2025

Combined Minutes of the Session Committees February 2025

Caring Ministries Committee Minutes:

February 18th

Attendees: Beth Case, Annette Erickson, Beverly Fluke, Christine Gentil, Bob Larson, Barbara Mueller, Jim Newlin, Christine Roskamp, Judy Stockton, Suzanne Tobin, Sue Warren, Paul Whelchel

Not in Attendance: Terral Cesak, Olga Griffin, Judy Gordon Lesikar

Welcome and Opening Prayer: Bob Larson

Discussion on Community: Bob led a discussion on community (one of Caring Ministries' key values) and how it relates to Acts 2:42-47 and Hebrews 10:23-25.

Ministry Reports:

Community Relations

- Our Hot Topics Series is underway:
 - On January 16, Tim Mavergeorge spoke on Mind Matters: Calm in the Chaos for the first of our series. There were 60+ people in attendance.
 - On January 30, a panel led by Luke Funderburk covering social media was the second of our series. On the panel were Rachel Poysky, Mitchell Kearney, and Michelle Collins. There were 50+ people in attendance.
 - February 27 will be the third program in the series. Chris Arend will be discussing AI: Description, Impact and Safeguards.
 - The final program will be March 27 with Lt. Roy Guinn, from Precinct 5 discussing Identity Theft and Scams.

Dementia and Caregiver Support:

- The Gathering Place met on the second Wednesday of January. We had 9 care partners, 8 caregivers, and 12 volunteers to kick off the new year. We also had 3 Caring Ministries staff helping during the day. The service project 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 3rd Thursday each month. The January Caregivers Lunch was held on January 23 with 8 people in attendance. Beverly Fluke led us in a devotional. Everyone introduced themselves over lunch since there were two new attendees. February 20 will be the next meeting. For more information, contact Beverly Fluke or Deacon Olga Griffin.

Grief Support:

- **Transforming Grief:** The spring series of the Transforming Grief program is underway with 8 participants. They are meeting 3:00-4:30pm on Wednesday afternoons, Jan. 15 – Mar 5. The facilitators are John Kemper and Christine Gentil. For more information about the next offering of Transforming Grief, contact Beverly Fluke.
- **The Widows Connection:** Women's Ministries and Caring Ministries hosted a Galentines Party on February 13 for the Widows Connection group. Amy Waltz opened her house for the occasion and 20 ladies enjoyed the soiree, complete with a chocolate fountain. The Widows Connection next monthly luncheon will be March 18, 11:30 in Room 103 at MDPC.
- **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:

- At the MDPC blood drive on Sunday, February 9th from 10:00 AM- 2:30 PM we had 9 successful donors which equals 10 pints donated. 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.

Home Visitation:

- The Home Visitation team had its first meeting of 2025 on January 15th. We were sad to lose another of our longtime members on the visitation roster in January, but two more were added.
- If you have a caring heart for our older members, this would be a wonderful ministry in which to get involved. Please contact Jim Newlin, Visitation Deacon, at jnewlin@comcast.net or Beverly Fluke if you would like to join the team or learn more about this ministry.

Memorial Services:

- January – 3 memorial services with receptions at MDPC. There were 2 inurnment services in the Columbarium.

Prayer Ministry:

- Pastors Beth Case and Jeanmarie Tade led a **Prayer & Art Retreat** at the MFAH. This was a partnership between FPC and MDPC. FPC hosted us so beautifully, offering coffee, tacos, technology, and space! MDPC provided booklets and guided prayers. In attendance were 40 people who spent time in community and with God.

Second Family:

- Second Family volunteers spent over 120 hours on SF duties throughout the month of January. One of our care partners suffered a femur fracture and had surgery. She was transferred from the hospital to a skilled nursing facility for inpatient rehab and is working on a plan for next steps after discharge.
- The care partners are very grateful for the visits, trips to grocery stores and doctor's appointments. And the Second Family Team enjoys the visits as well.
- Mobile Meals were provided to 3 recipients on Mondays and Thursdays in January.

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. Research shows that "Strong social connection is one of the most accurate predictions of a person's long-term wellness."
- **Venturers:** On February 3, Robert Westheimer gave a presentation about the Houston Holocaust Museum; fifty-eight attended. On March 3, the artistic director of Theater Under the Stars will talk about its history, current offerings, and its future.
- **Encore Fellowship:** On January 13, twenty attended a wine tasting at Vine Memorial. On February 1, twenty-three saw Chicago at Memorial High School and had dinner at Los Tios afterward.
- **Prime Timers:** On January 15, eleven people went to the Museum of Fine Arts to see the Gauguin exhibit. A visit is planned to Blue Willow Bookshop on 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 January 21 the planned lunch was cancelled because of the snow. The next Seniors Lunch will be on February 16, Tuesday (MDPC is closed for Presidents Day, Monday). Everyone is asked to bring "a picture of a younger you".

Stephen Ministry:

- The Stephen Ministry team met on January 14 for a supervisory meeting and then on January 28 for continuing education with MDPC's Adult Studies Director Laurien Hook. She covered lessons from the book of James, including how faith and works in action intertwine.

- 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.

Other: Caring Ministries hosted a **Memory Enhancement Training** class taught by Amazing Place on Feb 4 & 11. Next up will be their **Aging Roadmap course** offered at MDPC on April 2,9, &16. For questions or to register, contact Pam Berkley: pberkley@amazingplacehouston.org, 713-581-6973.

Closing Prayer: Beverly Fluke

Next CM Meeting: Tuesday, March 18th, at 10:00 am in room 101

Children's Ministries Committee Minutes:

Tuesday, February 4, 2025

Attendants: Kristen Anderson, Sarah Kilgore, Keri Mosk, Lenora Oliveira, Ginny French, Mayra Arellano, Michael Kringel, Heather Tackett, Mimi Wells, Maryam Baraya

Devotional led by Mayra Arellano

Elementary Update: There has been a strong start to the new year with great attendance. Blast off has around 45 children attend. Keri and Rachel are working on hosting a parent book club during Blast Off hours starting 2/12. Second and Third grade pizza party is on March 2. Fourth and Fifth grade pizza party is March 30.

Preschool Update: Worship, praise, and story time is going well. Preschool decided to wait until the fall to purchase a new curricula as more time is needed to review options. Preschool would like a highlight video of praise and worship time to put on the Kid's website. New risers for worship space have been ordered. There will be a special Easter presentation for preschoolers.

Childcare Plus Update: Parents night out is full for February 8. Staff are prepared for CITC. No registration is required for that Sunday, but Saturday participants need to register.

Kaleidoscope & Safe Haven Update: Numbers have been increasing in Kaleidoscope. (4-5 kids 9:45. 1-2 kids @ 11:15). 75 people have signed up for Birds and Bees presentation. Still looking for a part time special needs coordinator and summer interns.

Summer Celebration: Save the date went out for 2/27 registration. Need a preschool Chair.

Little School and Yellow School Update: No update

Fuente: Fuente class moving into room 206 @ 9:45

BPC: Not many children show up for BPC Sunday school though plenty of volunteers are present. Planning a BPC congregational event on 2/15 from 5-8 PM

Finance Committee Minutes:

Finance Committee Meeting Minutes January 21, 2025

Present members: Marcus Vajdos, Dena Bankett, Kelly Handel, Bob Davis, Chris Arend, Kyle Wienert, Rosy Pereira, Karin Tyson, Mark Lumpkin – there was quorum present

Absent members: Jennifer Fernelius, Christina Morse

- The meeting was held via Teams and started at 5:21pm
- Mr. Arend welcomed new members and explained the role of at large members

- Mr. Arend introduced a new devotional practice that will take place at the beginning of each meeting and will be led by the different members of the finance committee team. The first devotional was based on the book Truth for each day by Billy Graham. Mr. Davis shared about ecoprayer.com and how it can be used for devotionals
- December 2024 Minutes were approved with no comments or questions
- Mr. Vajdos explained how to access the different files within the finance committee Team's channel
- Marcus reported on the financials
- 2024 YTD contributions were \$ higher by \$827M, other operating income was above by \$187K. Total income higher by \$1,045M. Marcus explained that over and above is paid out of operating income only, and it does not include other operating income.
- 2024 YTD pastoral expenses were overall within the budget, and other expenses were higher by \$502K primarily due to higher facilities expenses. The credit for school grant was removed from 2024 financials and will be carried over to be used in 2025.
- Mr. Arend and Mr. Vajdos explained the decision made to control expenses behavior during 2025. Mr. Davis suggested the details for expenses to be reviewed at department level for 2025. It was also suggested to include the monthly reviews to timely explain variances over amounts that are over and under expectations.
- 2024 YTD outreach expense is still pending to pay \$608M, which will be recorded as payables at year-end. Overall YTD 2024 closed with a \$1.2M of positive cash flow
- Mr. Vajdos and Mr. Arend explained the calculation for the 2024 over and above (\$827K) and made the recommendation for use of these balances. Allocations were discussed and revised.
- Mr. Vajdos is considering dissolving the budget committee and audit committee and creating an insurance committee. Mr. Davis asked about the change of staff retreat from external to internal location and Mr. Vajdos explained the reasoning.
- Mr. Arend explained plans to enhance communication for 2025, including capturing a list of items the finance committee needs to provide update to other committees (i.e. legacy, outreach, etc.) and capturing items from these committees that need to be discussed or made known by the finance committee.
- Mr. Arend explained at the 1 (one) open position for at-large members within the finance committee and asked for recommendations. The Finance Committee will think of options and propose to Chris.
- Mr. Vajdos explained the rationale for final updates to 2025 budget. Mr. Vajdos made a motion to approve the 2025 budget, Mrs. Tyson seconded, and everyone voted in favor. The budget will be presented at the Staff Retreat.
- Mr. Vajdos made a motion to approve the 2024 over and above recommendation, conditional to session approval. Mrs. Tyson seconded the motion, and everyone voted in favor. Final allocation will be presented at the Staff Retreat.
- Marcus will coordinate the scheduling of the future 2025 meetings.
- Mr. Arend and Mr. Vajdos ended the meeting at 6:45pm

Legacy Committee Minutes:

Wed, Feb 12, 2025

Prepared by Ginny Glass

In attendance: Nathan Stedham, Kate Brock, Michael McCormack, Alf Halvorson, Marcus Vajdos, Dena Bankett, and Ginny Glass

Absent: Chris Arend, Taryn Lankford, Melinda Jackson, and Cy Canton

Nathan opened the meeting in prayer.

Marcus gave an update of Legacy projects from 2024:

- Pickle Ball Courts are complete, sod just went in; signage will be up by month end
- Restrooms complete except for the installation of the final partitions
- Roof complete
- Exterior Signage complete
- Furniture has been ordered and will arrive in pieces over the next six months
- Tables (6' rectangular) will be ordered soon; Marcus has searched for best pricing

Dena gave a financial update that outlined income, donations, and payments in 2024.

The committee discussed the original Legacy project list considering the Master Plan. What will fall into the Master Plan category and what should stay as Legacy?

Alf asked for approval for up to \$10K for scholarships for staff attending mission trips.

The next Legacy Sunday is scheduled for May 18. Discussed development of a video and a handout.

Young Adult Committee Minutes:

February 2nd, Room 122, 12:15pm - Edneia opened the session with pray blessing our time.

Devotional: Georgia led us in a deep reflection around Hebrews 4:16 emphasizing the sufficiency of God's grace by inviting us to approach His throne with confidence. This verse reassures us that we can always find mercy and grace to help us in our times of need. It highlights that God's grace is not only available but also abundant and sufficient for every situation we face. This message aligns beautifully with the idea that God's grace is enough, providing us with the strength and support we need, especially during challenging times.

Items Discussed:

Sally began the discussion walking the group through the Training in Gospel Appointments. During this training she shared how the group can approach spiritual conversations. Below are the highlights:

A gospel appointment involves three parts: their story, your story, and God's story.

Their Story: Take a genuine interest in getting to know the other person, their background, upbringing, hobbies, and general life details.

Your Story: Share your own story, including your faith, as part of natural conversation. Be intentional but not forceful about sharing aspects of your faith.

God's Story: Share the gospel, explaining that God created us for a perfect relationship with Him, which was broken by human rebellion. Emphasize that Christianity is unique because God came to Earth to restore this relationship through Jesus, offering hope, identity, belonging, and purpose.

The goal is to build a meaningful connection and share the gospel in a comfortable and natural way. And keep in mind we're all called to make disciples, and we have different personalities.

When someone expresses interest or questions about faith during a gospel appointment, continue meeting with them and invite them to other events to integrate them into the Christian community. If Alpha (a course exploring the Christian faith) is a good next step, accompany them to the sessions rather than just sending them alone.

YA Lead Team Social Connection:

The group has decided to go to **Pop Stroke on March 2nd**. On the same day, we will have our next lead team meeting from 12:30 to 2 PM. After the meeting, we will head to Pop Stroke together to build community with the team.

The Rev. Dr. Clay J. Brown
Adult Discipleship Pastor, MDPC
Sabbatical Outline
March 1 – May 31, 2025

I. Introduction:

1. What this sabbatical is **not**: Reading, studying, thinking, and preparing a product (paper or book)
2. What this sabbatical **is**: Set-apart time for four essential acts of renewing and refreshing:
 1. Ceasing
 2. Resting
 3. Playing
 4. Envisioning
3. How this sabbatical is funded: Lilly Foundation grant (more information available upon request) covering travel, meals and lodging, spiritual direction, travel insurance, potential tax liabilities, and BYF teaching needs

II. Sabbatical Structure

1. Ceasing: No pastoral, organizational or programmatic roles at MDPC
2. Resting: While keeping consistent schedule, taking time to read, lounge, and relax
3. Playing: 3-4 days each of two favorite participation sports per week and going on two “once in a lifetime” cruises with Cathy
4. Envisioning: Initial conversations with certified Spiritual Director on remaining 5 years post-sabbatical at MDPC and further ministry in post-retirement

III. More on Resting and Playing

1. Books:
 - Novels: including, but not limited to, *A Little Life* by Hanya Yanagihara, *Silence* by Shusaku Endo, *Cahokia Jazz* by Francis Spufford, *The Wharton Plot* by Mariah Fredericks, and *The Three-Body Problem* by Cixin Liu
 - “Beach reading:” detective mysteries and military science fiction
2. Sports:
 - Pickleball 3-4 times per week, Del Webb Sweetgrass Pickleball Club
 - Table Tennis 3-4 times per week, Del Webb Sweetgrass Table Tennis Club
3. Cruises:
 - March 8-22, Viking Ocean Cruise, Buenos Aires/Ushuaia around Cape Horn to Santiago
 - May 1-9, Viking River Cruise, Danube from Budapest to Regensburg, Germany
4. Weekend getaways: take advantage of the opportunities to visit friends and churches during “long weekends”
5. Spiritual direction sessions: March 27, April 10, April 22, and May 21.
6. Learn elementary Spanish: Pimsleur digital

IV. Coverage of Responsibilities during Sabbatical Absence

1. Day to day: Adult Discipleship Team (Janell Kelleher, Administrative Coordinator, in conversation with Laurien Hook, Director of Adult Studies, and Leigh McLeroy, Teacher and Writer in Residence)
2. Significant decisions beyond usual day to day: Laurien Hook and Leigh McLeroy in conversation with Beth Case, Pastor for Caring and Christian Formation
3. Participation on Program Team: Laurien Hook and Leigh McLeroy to rotate attendance
4. Adult Discipleship Team:
 - Schedule: meets once a quarter
 - Meeting on February 27; next meeting in June after return
5. Nominating Committee:
 - Nominations open May 18 and close August 25
 - Committee meetings: Thursdays, September 4, 11, 18, and 25
 - Congregational meeting proposal: October 26
 - Officer Training at least two of three dates: Thursdays, November 6, 13, and 20.
 - Beth as pastor with committee if need arises during sabbatical
6. Teaching:
 - “Building Your Faith:” Sunday mornings, 9:45 and 11:15 a.m.
 - Final class on The Gospel in David’s Story, March 2: Leigh McLeroy
 - Lenten series on Sabbath: March 9—April 13
 - March 9 and April 6: Leigh McLeroy
 - March 16, 23, 30, and April 13: Laurien Hook
 - 1, 2, and 3 John: April 27—May 25
 - April 27, May 11, and May 25: Leigh McLeroy
 - May 4 and 18: Laurien Hook
 - Wednesday Night Short Courses
 - “Disciplines of (Dis)Connection,” March 12, 19, and 26, 6:30 p.m.: Leigh McLeroy
 - No April or May Wednesday short courses scheduled
7. In unexpected health or schedule concerns, Beth Case and Dan Aikins, Pastor for Evangelism, to assist the Adult Discipleship Team with teaching responsibilities