



SESSION DOCUMENTS

Mon, Mar 24, 2025

Memorial Drive Presbyterian Church

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

Session Meeting Agenda

March 24, 2025



Strategic Goals

2023-2028



1. **Call to Order and Opening Prayer** (Beth Case)
2. **Establishment of Quorum** (Kelly Handel)
 - Please check in on the MDPC App!
3. **Modeling of The Spoken Word** (Advisory Team)
 - Scripture: Romans 7:14-8:39
4. **Clerk's Report** (Kelly Handel)
5. **Treasurer's Report** (Chris Arend)
6. **Master Plan Debrief** (Alf Halvorson)
 - What Do You Think? and What Are You Hearing?
7. **Holy Week and Easter Plans** (Alf Halvorson)
8. **Omnibus Motion**
 - a. **Motion** to approve the minutes of the February 24, 2025, Session Meeting.
 - b. **Motion** to approve the following baptisms performed in March 2025:

Name	Age	Parents		Date
Crawford Allen Hodge	Child	Courtney and Justin Hodge	Yes	3/2/2025-Immersion
Sloan David Higginbotham	Child	Sarah and David Higginbotham	Yes	3/2/2025-Sprinkle
Sarah Le'Anne Higginbotham	Adult		Yes	3/2/2025-Immersion

c. **Transfers and Dismissals:**

Please transfer the following active members:

Sims, William Andrew to St. Luke's United Methodist Church, Houston, TX.

Spence, Charles Fletcher (Chase) to St. Andrew's Presbyterian Church, Houston, TX.

d. **Motion** to approve Outreach Partner Funding for March 2025 as follows:

March 2025 Recommendations

Consent Agenda items:

Partner Funding Recommendations		Designated	
The Antioch Partners	\$16,500	Designated: Adair	Global Missionary
Frontier Fellowship	\$11,000	Designated: Biru	Global Missionary
Cru	\$11,000	Designated: Missionary #0638840	Global Missionary
Steven & Natalie Hall	\$11,000	Designated: Personal Support	Global Missionary
Frontiers	\$11,000	Missionary #004554	Global Missionary
YWAM	\$11,000	Designated: Personal Support (Johnson)	Global Missionary
Allegro Organizational Solutions	\$5,500	Designated: Acct# NYC-BB.KSJ	Global Missionary
The Antioch Partners	\$11,000	Designated: Leina & Salam	Global Missionary
Action International Ministries	\$11,000	Designated: Acct# 47001	Global Missionary
Frontier Fellowship	\$11,000	Designated: McNerney	Global Missionary
Novo	\$11,000	Designated: Acct# 6781 Zovak	Global Missionary
Totaling:	\$121,000		

9. 2025 Calendar Reminders

March 24	Session Meeting 6:30 pm in Chapel
March 30	Alf Halvorson Preaching Lenten Series- Words of Woe
April 6	Alf Halvorson Preaching Lenten Series-Words of Woe
April 12	Easter Village 10am-12am
April 13	Alf Halvorson Preaching Palm Sunday
April 14	The Spoken Word & The Silent Word Begin
April 17	Maundy Thursday 7pm in Sanctuary
April 18	Good Friday Noon-Sanctuary 7pm Spanish- language in Chapel

April 20 **Easter Sunday**| Alf Halvorson Preaching
7 am Sunrise| Sanctuary Courtyard; 8:30am Contemporary| Sanctuary
9:45am Family| Sanctuary; 11:15am Traditional| Sanctuary
Easter Sunday| Spanish-language Service| Guillermo Yela Preaching| 11:15am
Chapel
Easter Sunday| Portuguese-language Service |Almir Dias Preaching| 6pm Chapel

April 21 Easter Monday- MDPC Closed

April 27 Alf Halvorson Preaching

April 28 Session Meeting| 6: 30 pm in Chapel

2026 Important Dates

January 23-24 Staff and Officer Retreat

January 27-29 ECO National Gathering- Atlanta, GA

10. Announcements and Additional Business

- IT Reminders

11. Adjournment & Closing Prayer *(Rachel Poysky)*

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

Memorial Drive Presbyterian Church
Balance Sheet Thru February
MDPC Summary Balance Sheet-2025

Name	Month to Month			
	February 20258	January 2025	Difference	February 2024
ASSETS				
Unrestricted Cash & Cash Equivalents	3,681,835.85	3,799,408.35	(117,572.50)	5,328,120.99
Current Investments (Unrestricted)	1,516,753.17	1,514,909.04	1,844.13	2,116,820.40
Total Unrestricted Cash & Cash Equivalents	5,198,589.02	5,314,317.39	(115,728.37)	7,444,941.39
Current Investments (Restricted)	4,505,915.48	4,505,915.48	-	2,421,233.84
Legacy Restricted Cash & Equivalents	4,364,898.18	4,364,898.18	-	4,618,079.51
Total Restricted Cash & Equivalents	8,870,813.66	8,870,813.66	-	7,039,313.35
Prepaid Expense, Deposits, Inventory	269,057.12	319,579.68	(50,522.56)	442,257.86
Miscellaneous Receivables	9,479.79	9,974.38	(494.59)	12,963.81
Property & Equipment	57,975,154.21	57,975,154.21	-	55,618,502.77
Accumulated Depreciation	(48,937,881.77)	(48,937,881.77)	-	(47,575,114.53)
Note Receivable	-	-	-	-
TOTAL ASSETS	23,385,212.03	23,551,957.55	(166,745.52)	22,982,864.65
LIABILITIES				
Accounts Payable	1,082,597.05	1,312,467.99	(229,870.94)	652,081.90
Other Payables	106,553.05	104,224.70	2,328.35	87,523.57
Prepaid Tuition and Fees	136,577.75	111,932.50	24,645.25	101,495.00
Custodial Accounts	71,522.94	71,522.94	-	37,424.90
Note Payable-PNC /PPP	-	-	-	-
TOTAL LIABILITIES	1,397,250.79	1,600,148.13	(202,897.34)	878,525.37
NET ASSETS				
Unrestricted Net Assets	13,208,091.76	13,145,545.46	62,546.30	13,337,923.79
Temp. Restricted Net Assets	4,059,939.87	4,071,102.20	(11,162.33)	2,860,295.98
Perm. Restricted Net Assets	433,857.59	433,857.59	-	433,857.59
Restricted Legacy Net Assets	4,286,072.02	4,301,304.17	(15,232.15)	5,472,261.92
TOTAL NET ASSETS	21,987,961.24	21,951,809.42	36,151.82	22,104,339.28
TOTAL LIABILITIES & NET ASSETS	23,385,212.03	23,551,957.55	(166,745.52)	22,982,864.65

Budgeted Financial Statement for Period 2 - February
SUMMARY INCOME & EXPENSE - 2025
Company#: 1 Name: Memorial Drive Presbyterian Church
Fiscal Year Beginning 1/1/2025

Description	Feb Act	2025 YTD Feb	Feb Bud	Over (Under) Budget	% Variance YTD	Prior YTD 2024	2025 Budget Annual
OPERATING INCOME							
Contributions	\$ 1,064,430	\$ 1,722,196	\$ 1,984,080	\$ (261,884)	(13.20)	\$ 2,068,877	\$ 14,203,392
Bank/Gateway/Credit Card Fees	\$ (5,558)	\$ (15,654)	\$ -	\$ (15,654)	-	\$ (15,237)	\$ -
Ministry Events Revenue	\$ 286,541	\$ 656,551	\$ 600,176	\$ 56,375	9.39	\$ 596,827	\$ 3,388,112
Other Operating Income	\$ 8,602	\$ 16,281	\$ 16,667	\$ (385)	(2.31)	\$ 26,140	\$ 100,000
TOTAL OPERATING INCOME	1,354,016	2,379,374	2,600,923	(221,549)	(8.52)	2,676,607	17,691,504
Ministry Operating Expense							
Pastoral Ministry							
Caring Ministry	\$ 36,106	\$ 66,969	\$ 75,205	\$ (8,236)	10.95	\$ 67,200	\$ 456,835
Fuente	\$ 14,087	\$ 25,972	\$ 26,400	\$ (428)	1.62	\$ 27,337	\$ 160,781
Children's Ministry	\$ 69,067	\$ 128,085	\$ 148,764	\$ (20,679)	13.90	\$ 119,033	\$ 897,412
Youth Ministry	\$ 48,427	\$ 90,068	\$ 109,655	\$ (19,587)	17.86	\$ 74,469	\$ 702,140
Relationships	\$ 48,123	\$ 71,940	\$ 77,844	\$ (5,904)	7.58	\$ 71,512	\$ 388,560
Sports and REACH Programs	\$ 83,276	\$ 99,288	\$ 91,503	\$ 7,785	(8.51)	\$ 24,005	\$ 484,570
Outreach (Admin)	\$ 59,348	\$ 107,981	\$ 111,792	\$ (3,811)	3.41	\$ 107,915	\$ 661,504
Adult Discipleship	\$ 34,996	\$ 66,340	\$ 70,426	\$ (4,086)	5.80	\$ 65,736	\$ 422,584
Young Adult	\$ 23,535	\$ 42,607	\$ 33,904	\$ 8,703	(25.67)	\$ 18,850	\$ 207,510
Worship	\$ 38,870	\$ 71,966	\$ 81,404	\$ (9,438)	11.59	\$ 74,393	\$ 482,268
Traditional Music	\$ 39,020	\$ 72,791	\$ 71,338	\$ 1,453	(2.04)	\$ 71,414	\$ 450,868
Contemporary Music	\$ 26,766	\$ 54,107	\$ 55,678	\$ (1,571)	2.82	\$ 57,321	\$ 332,968
Brazilian Ministry	\$ 16,251	\$ 27,831	\$ 33,462	\$ (5,631)	16.83	\$ 31,777	\$ 200,768
Total Pastoral Ministry	\$ 537,872	\$ 925,947	\$ 987,376	\$ (61,429)	6.22	\$ 810,964	\$ 5,848,767
Support Ministry							
Communications & Media	\$ 83,038	\$ 149,042	\$ 145,736	\$ 3,306	(2.27)	\$ 150,859	\$ 872,794
Administration	\$ 79,025	\$ 150,796	\$ 148,614	\$ 2,182	(1.47)	\$ 136,709	\$ 929,040
Food Service	\$ 12,625	\$ 26,135	\$ 26,667	\$ (532)	1.99	\$ 25,751	\$ 160,000
Facilities & Technology	\$ 230,711	\$ 423,534	\$ 430,199	\$ (6,665)	1.55	\$ 436,972	\$ 2,586,448
The Little School	\$ 118,648	\$ 223,128	\$ 221,719	\$ 1,409	(0.64)	\$ 209,914	\$ 1,324,610
The Yellow School	\$ 71,377	\$ 125,399	\$ 126,024	\$ (625)	0.50	\$ 124,610	\$ 768,714
Total Support Ministry	\$ 595,423	\$ 1,098,033	\$ 1,098,959	\$ (926)	0.08	\$ 1,084,816	\$ 6,641,606
Anticipated Budget Reduction	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	#DIV/0!	\$ -	\$ -
Total Ministry Operating Expense	\$ 1,133,295	\$ 2,023,980	\$ 2,086,335	\$ (62,355)	2.99%	\$ 1,895,780	\$ 12,490,373
Outreach Expense							
Outreach - Ministry Sponsored	\$ 87,823	\$ 145,724	\$ 179,445	\$ (33,720.64)	18.79	\$ 116,827	\$ 1,385,649
Outreach - Ministry Partners	\$ 16,725	\$ 21,925	\$ -	\$ 21,925.30	-	\$ 1,488	\$ 3,165,481
Total Outreach Expense	\$ 104,548	\$ 167,650	\$ 179,445	\$ (11,795.34)	6.57	\$ 118,315	\$ 4,551,130
Other Operating Expense							
Insurance & Legal	\$ 49,460	\$ 100,920	\$ 100,000	\$ 920	(0.92)	\$ 87,812	\$ 600,000
Capital Additions/Reserve	\$ 4,167	\$ 8,333	\$ 8,333	\$ -	-	\$ 8,333	\$ 50,000
Total Other Operating Expense	\$ 53,627	\$ 109,254	\$ 108,333	\$ 920	(0.85)	\$ 96,145	\$ 650,000
TOTAL OPERATING EXPENSES	\$ 1,291,469	\$ 2,300,884	\$ 2,374,113	\$ (73,230)	3.08%	\$ 2,110,240	\$ 17,691,504
Other Income(Loss)							
Total Other Income(Loss)	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	-	\$ -	\$ -
NET INCOME (LOSS)	\$ 62,546	\$ 78,491	\$ 226,810	\$ (148,319)	-65.39%	\$ 566,367	\$ 1
Restr & Enrichment Inc/(Exp)	\$ (26,394)	\$ (90,114)	\$ -	\$ (90,114)	-	\$ 192,914	\$ -

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

Elders Present: Jeannie Able, Chris Arend, Amanda Austin, Sandy Ballard, Carla Bradford, Rick Chapman, Stephanie Espinoza, Ginny French, Kelly Handel, , Bob Larson, Madison Limbacher, Stefano Lugo, Lisa McChristian, , Rafael Moreira, Christina Morse, Kim Oswald, Mike Pelton, Rosy Pereira, Nikki Pielop, Sharon Roark, Peggy Samuels, David Shelfer, Hunter Smith, Joe Stockdale, Kyle Wienert

Elders Excused: Ellen Davidson, Alex Knoop, Michael Kringel, Marc Laney, Tarryn Lankford, Hector Longoria, Michael McCormack, Nathan Stedham, Andre Verona

Elders Absent: Jennifer Fernelius, Leslie Sloan, Ryan Taylor, Mat Yelvington

Pastors Present: Dan Aikins, Clay Brown, Beth Case, Beverly Fluke, Alf Halvorson, Sally Henein, Brett Hurst, Rachel Poysky

Staff Present: Amy Delgado, Meliza Gomez, Jennifer Vajdos, Marcus Vajdos

Call to Order: Pastor Beth Case called the meeting of the Session of Memorial Drive Presbyterian Church to order at 6:31 pm in the Chapel. She opened by reading **Psalm 90:1**. "**Lord, through all the generations you have been our home**" and leading us in prayer.

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

New Members: (Stephanie Espinoza)

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

Ashley Chainani, Heather and Chuck Motschman- online

Laura and Ben Fedorko, Shelly and Bryan Gerard, Erin and Jack Howard, Audrey and Kevin Saxe, Kathy Wright, Eileen Zwart – in person

Stephanie Espinoza, Elder for Evangelism-New Members, gave a brief introduction and welcomed our fifteen covenant partners from the most recent new member class. Stephanie introduced our **Motion: to receive the above-named friends as Covenant Partners at MDPC**. Those online and those in the room were invited to introduce themselves, telling Session why they were attracted to MDPC and one place they wish to serve. Beth thanked them for the introductions and asked the three questions of membership. Beth then asked for the **Motion on the floor: to receive the above-named friends as Covenant Partners at MDPC**, which was made and seconded. The motion was approved unanimously and with great joy. Stephanie prayed for our newest members and Beth dismissed them with the invitation to remain for the duration of the meeting or to be excused.

Emotionally Healthy Leadership (Alf Halvorson)

At our staff and elder retreat, a month ago, our focus was on Pete Casarius..."so goes the leader, so goes the church" We had a big event Sat and Sunday-CITC-one of our Super Bowls- and after this Sunday, we have Ash Wednesday coming up and then 40 days of Lent...if we are not careful there are no margins...Prepare yourself now and get in a posture for 9 minutes of audio- to listen - listen without visual stimulation -to John Mark Comer -based on Richard Swenson's book *Margin* – about the necessity-the crucial aspect of having margin in our lives and a healthy balance- Richard A. Swenson defines **Margin as "the space between our load and our limit.**- does this ring true?

<https://www.dropbox.com/scl/fi/cwexgej8ctcxzhxiemy6c/All-Staff-Video-02.24.2025.mp4?rlkey=5tvhqsoh7cqyvh7f1nxvg8e&e=1&st=71vbo6h6&dl=0>

- React to this. If overload applies to you, which type?
Activity/Change/Choice/Commitment/Choice/Debt/Expectation/ Information/Media/Noise/Fatigue....
- Agree or Disagree: do we live in an “achievement society?” and how is that similar or different than the culture in which you grew up?
- Where do you see depression (as John Mark Comer describes it) prevalent in your family, ministry, self?

Great dialogue followed amongst Session and Staff. How can we as a Session have an Upper Room and a Board Room? How do we have margin in our meetings? How can we be efficient but connect with each other and do meaningful work and listen to God? Roberta Hestenes, Eastern University said -if you don't deal with what people are coming in with from in the world, before the meeting, then they are not fully present...they bring in baggage and their load- the meetings can take longer, more distraction, etc.-

Can we pause for a minute and be fully present to God and to each other? Maybe tonight, for the next 45 minutes, can we be fully present to God and to this agenda- perhaps this is how we, tonight, deal with the margins. Alf closed us in prayer to wrap up this portion of our meeting.

Clerk's Report: (Joe Stockdale)

- Please check in online!
- ECO National Gathering Recap- 1300 people at Highland Park Pres in Dallas - every 30 minutes, 6 breakout sessions- great attendance from staff-Joe Stockdale only officer in attendance- in late January 2026, we will be in Atlanta, GA for the next ECO National Gathering- Joe encouraged us to plan to attend.

Treasurer's Report: (Chris Arend)

We are always looking at our expenses and always looking at our contribution income. We are comparing numbers to last year, to the budget, and week to week with a monthly statement- we are a little behind from last year, however, we are underspending and net positive- so we are doing alright! We are to watch and look at this point- we are still early on. How are we spending and how are we doing with contributions?

We are to look at some topics in the coming months that Session can learn from and understand. Tonight: What is the significance of our Operating Expense Budget if we at the end of the year go above or below? And what's our role? To be good stewards as Elders, Deacons, and MDPC Staff.

Church in the City God-Sightings and Immediate Impressions (Rachel Poysky and Amy Delgado)

Rachel thanked all the Outreach staff and Amy Delgado. Here at the church, we made just under 27K sandwiches for Kids Meals, and many successful partner projects in the gym to include STAAR snack packs for six area elementary schools, easter eggs- Rachel asked for site reports from -Mission of Yahweh, Santa Maria, Food Bank, Spring Spirit, Magnificat House. She acknowledged the fellowship amongst our own members- growing our roots! The dream from the beginning with CITC was to be outside the church- where we are still trying to push out, we recognize how many we are meeting that are on the fringes of MDPC, feeling comfortable to come serve-either on campus or off.

Master Planning Update (Sandy Ballard)

Two “Town Hall” sessions will be offered this coming Sunday, March 2nd at 11 am and again at 12:30 - 35 minutes in length following a very brief 5-minute Annual Meeting.

Omnibus Agenda:

Beth introduced the Omnibus Motion below for February 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.

- Motion** to approve the minutes of the January 24, 2025, Session Meeting.
- Motion** to approve the Annual Congregational Meeting and Town Hall on Sunday, March 2nd.
- Motion** to dissolve the Budget committee as well as the Audit Committee.
- 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.

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

Announcements and Additional Business

- Sabbatical Plans – Clay Brown-funded by a grant from the Lily Foundation
 - This Sabbatical IS an opportunity for four things: ***Ceasing, Resting, Playing, Visioning***

Adjournment

A **Motion** to adjourn the February 2025 Session Meeting was made at 7:44 p.m.

Rachel Poysky invited Clay to come back up to the front so that we could pray specifically for Clay and Kathy and Sabbatical, Rest, Margin.

Minutes respectfully submitted on behalf of Kelly Handel, Clerk.

By Jennifer Vajdos, Executive Ministries Coordinator, February 2025

**Outreach Ministries
Funding Recommendations
March 2025**

Global Missionaries

Missionary Partner: The Adair Family

Funding made out to: The Antioch Partners, Designated: Adair

2024 Funding: \$16,500

2025 Funding Recommendation: \$16,500

Rev. Andrew and Teri Adair launched The Antioch Partners (TAP), a missionary-sending agency, in 2007 to train and equip cross-cultural servants, and send them into the world to demonstrate the love of Jesus Christ in tangible ways. TAP's goals are to see people become followers of Jesus and to foster the formation of worshipping communities among the unreached and least-reached people groups throughout the world.

Missionary Partner: Urgessa Biru

Funding made out to: Frontier Fellowship, Designated: Biru

2024 Funding: \$11,000

2025 Funding Recommendation: \$11,000

MDPC Field Partner Urgessa works and serves in Ethiopia as the founder of Light of Hope Ministry Ethiopia (LOHME). The vision of LOHME is to bring the Good News of God's love to the Arsi Oromo people, both in Ethiopia and in North America. LOHME carries out their mission through building village schools, church planting, Bible translation into local dialects, and the vision of establishing a Christian College to train teachers and nurses.

Missionary Partner: Family Serving in Saudi Arabia

Funding made out to: Cru, Designated: Missionary # 0638840

2024 Funding: \$5,500

2025 Funding Recommendation: \$11,000

This family lives in Saudi Arabia where they seek to introduce college age students to Jesus and build intentional relationships. Through teaching at a university and leading workshops and webinars, they have the opportunity to meet college students as well as their friends and families. Pray that the students they disciple will be a light in their country and will influence their society as they become leaders.

Missionary Partner: The Hall Family

2024 Funding: \$11,000

2025 Funding Recommendation: \$11,000

MDPC Field Partners Steven and Natalie Hall serve with SEND International. Their strategic partnership ministry helps bring gospel transformation to unreached people groups throughout the world. The Hall's ministry spreads the light of Jesus into dark places to bring hope and healing.

Missionary Partner: Family serving in Jordan

Funding made out to: Frontiers, Designated: Missionary #004554

2024 Funding: \$11,000

2025 Funding Recommendation: \$11,000

MDPC Field Partners C and J have lived in the Middle East for 10 years where their goal is to mobilize disciple-making movements within the communities that they live and work. Pray for C, J, their three children, and their team to be strengthened by God as they seek opportunities to share their faith in Jesus while building relationships with their neighbors, co-workers, and those placed in their path.

Missionary Partner: The Johnson Family

Funding made out to: YWAM, Designated: Personal Support (Johnson)

2024 Funding: \$11,000

2025 Funding Recommendation: \$11,000

MDPC Field Partners Steve and Barbara Johnson serve in Budapest, Hungary, through Youth With a Mission. The Johnsons operate a coffee house that serves as an evangelism center, reaching out to the Budapest community with music and conversation that sparks spiritual discussion. They also lead a discipleship training school and have formed a mercy ministries team that shares the love of Jesus with people that are homeless and refugee families.

Missionary Partner: Kristin Jones

Funding made out to: Allegro Organizational Solutions, Designated: Acct# NYC-BB.KSJ

2024 Funding: \$5,500

2025 Funding Recommendation: \$5,500

MDPC Field Partner Kristin Jones is building relationships for the Kingdom and sharing the Gospel within the Bangladeshi community in New York City. After ten years living overseas in the Bengal region, she is fluent in Bengali and understands the culture. This allows her the opportunity to significantly impact Bangladeshis' lives as they adjust to America and to share the Good News of Jesus Christ.

Missionary Partner: Couple Serving in Tbilisi, Georgia

Funding made out to: The Antioch Partners, Designated: Leina & Salam Personal Support

2024 Funding: \$5,500

2025 Funding Recommendation: \$11,000

This MDPC missionary couple supports communities of Arab, Persian and Turkish believers from a Muslim background. Through their Christian center in Tbilisi, Georgia, they disciple and equip maturing believers to be a light in their community of origin and shepherd Christ-centered, biblically based, multiplying churches.

Missionary Partner: Family Serving in SE Asia

Funding made out to: Action International Ministries, Designated: Acct# 47001

2024 Funding: \$11,000

2025 Funding Recommendation: \$11,000

MDPC Field Partner Dr. M and his family show God's compassion to the unreached by meeting physical needs through dental health. Dr. M practices and teaches dentistry while sharing the Good News of Jesus with tribes living in abject poverty in Southeast Asia. There, the 98% Muslim population has the least amount of dental care in the world.

Missionary Partner: Dan McNerney

Funding made out to: Frontier Fellowship, Designated: McNerney
2024 Funding: \$11,000

2025 Funding Recommendation: \$11,000

MDPC Field Partner Rev. Dan McNerney works with Frontier Fellowship, which seeks to bring the Gospel to unreached people groups all over the world. His ministry includes teaching, preaching, and mobilizing local churches on the principles of frontier mission. He has led MDPC members on mission in Egypt and other areas of the Middle East. Dan also leads friendship groups in Chicago, gathering Christians, Muslims, and Jews to dialogue on Kingdom life, reconciliation, and the teachings of Jesus.

Missionary Partner: Kim Zovak

Funding made out to: Novo, Designated: Acct# 6781 Zovak
2024 Funding: \$11,000

2025 Funding Recommendation: \$11,000

MDPC Field Partner Rev. Kim equips high-level Kingdom leaders to multiply movements of the gospel and mobilizes the church for mission in less reached and less resourced parts of the world (particularly in Asia). Through her strategic mentoring, training, and coaching, she helps missionaries and national leaders develop their personal and professional capacities to serve God, and to intentionally multiply themselves by developing more leaders to do the same.

Combined Minutes of the Session Committees March 2025

Caring Ministries Committee Minutes:

March 18th, 2025

Attendees: Annette Erickson, Beverly Fluke, Bob Larson, Jim Newlin, Christine Roskamp, Judy Stockton, Sue Warren, Paul Whelchel

Not in Attendance: Beth Case, Terral Cesak, Christine Gentil, Olga Griffin, Judy Gordon Lesikar, Barbara Mueller, Suzanne Tobin

Welcome and Opening Prayer: Bob Larson

Discussion on Care: Bob led a discussion on care (one of Caring Ministries' key values), how we define it, and how we follow examples in scripture such as Acts 2:44-45 and Acts 6:1-4.

Ministry Reports

Community Relations

- Our Hot Topics Series will wrap up on March 27. Recordings of the sessions can be found on the MDPC website under Media / Watch & Listen.
 - 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.
 - On February 27, Chris Arend spoke on AI: Description, Impact and Safeguards. There were almost 70 people in attendance.
 - 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 February 5. We had 8 care partners, 6 caregivers, and 11 volunteers this month. Nancy Blurton led the group in exercise with a Love Boat theme using pool noodles and conversation heart shakers. Rick and Grace Meyers were our special guests; they led us in worship and song and helped us make Valentine's cards. Lunch was served, and we played Bingo.
- **Caregiver Support Group:** The group meets for lunch at MDPC to support one another on the 3rd Thursday each month. The February Caregivers Lunch was held on February 20 with 8 people in attendance. March 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 wrapped up with a nice closing service on March 5. For 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 met on February 19. 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:

- February – 5 memorial services with receptions plus 1 inurnment service in the Columbarium.

Prayer Ministry:

- Much prayer and creativity is going into this year's edition of **The Silent Word** -a prayer room open during Holy Week alongside The Spoken Word. The Deacons will set up Apr 13, and hope that all can visit!

Second Family:

- Second Family Volunteers spent 289 hours supporting their care partners during February 2025. In February we had 10 care partners in Second Family, and 4 members who received Mobile Meals on Mondays and Thursdays.
- One of the care partners suffered a femur fracture and had surgery in the medical center in January. She transferred to rehab in February at Parkway Place. She has now moved to one of the Parkway Place Independent Living apartments and is enjoying it there. She appreciates the Second Family volunteers who helped her coordinate the moves and getting set up at Parkway Place.
- 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.

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 March 3, the artistic director of Theater Under the Stars talked about its history, current offerings, and its future. Thirty-one people attended. On April 7, Ken Wise will give a talk on Tales of Texas History.
- **Encore Fellowship:** On February 1, twenty-three saw Chicago at Memorial High School and had dinner at Los Tios afterward. On March 22, the Encore group will have dinner at Demeris BBQ.
- **Prime Timers:** On February 19, seven visited Blue Willow Bookshop. On March 19, a gift shopping trip is planned.
- **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 February 16, attendees were asked to bring "a picture of a younger you". It was a fun event. On Monday, March 17, the theme will be "anything you treasure".

Stephen Ministry:

- The Stephen Ministry team met on February 11 for a supervisory meeting and February 25 for continuing education with MDPC's Pastor Dan Akins covering Tough Faith Questions.
- 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: Jim Newlin

Next CM Meeting: Tuesday, April 15th, at 10:00 am in room 101

Children's Ministries Committee Minutes:

Tuesday, March 4, 2025

Attendants: Heather Tackett, Keri Mosk, Mayra Arellano, Lenora Oliveira, Maryam Baraya, Ellen Davidson (remote), Michael Kringel, Elizabeth Crawley, Tara Riebschlaeger Sidney (LS while Ashley is on leave)

Devotional led by Michael Kringel

Easter Village: April 12, petting zoo Palm Sunday 9-12:30, preschoolers go during Sunday school, no Sunday school easter, but childcare for 5 and under

Elementary Update: pizza party past Sunday March 2, March 30 (4/5 grade party), mission extreme in June 4/5 grade Kids Meals on campus and onsite, Brookwood, (June 3-5) and kinder set (17-18), working on second and third grade (June 10-12). Still finalizing plans for 2/3 grade. Registration starts March 20. Blast off going great, looking for new elective ideas. Mom's book club is going well. Still interviewing for summer interns. We are looking for one more full-time or part time intern.

Preschool Update: waiting until July before possibly changing from Orange to a new curriculum. Praise and worship going well. Planning easter special, like easter village. Working on a video of preschoolers worshipping

Childcare Plus Update: PNO 80-90 kids registered. Staff childcare during spring break, BPC event following weekend

Kaleidoscope & Safe Haven Update: found a potential candidate for the coordinator position

Summer Celebration: registration opened Friday 2/28, 606 registered, 70 spots left, 54 nursery and preschool registered, 94 adults and 90 teens registered

Little School and Yellow School Update: Registration for following year happened and already full. 2024 was 50-year anniversary of YS and making a video to celebrate. LS registration for 2025 happened and is full, working on new curriculum. Summer registration is coming on Friday.

Fuente: no update

BPC: Only a small number of children come to services. There are 3 classes (nursery, k-2, 3-5) classes get combined usually because of small numbers. Trying to have classes on Saturday once a month where all groups get together.

March 29, Birds and Bees (229 registered) childcare full. Can't have it in Sanctuary because of the concert, will be in fellowship hall.

Outreach Committee Minutes:

Monday, March 10th

Members Present: Amy Delgado, Marc Laney, Rosy Pereira, Jennifer Fernelius, Julie LaRue, Kim Oswald, Mike Pelton, Sharon Roark, Kelsi McCormack, Lisa McChristian

Members not present: Carla Bradford

- I. Devotional and Dinner
 - Amy provided dinner and devotional (the mirror story and Ephesians 5:8-14).
- II. Committee Member Introductions
- III. Meetings – General Overview (Attachment)
- IV. Recap of 2024 Over and Above –
 - Kelsi McCormack reported that 78 of the prioritized one-time projects, totaling \$701,300.99, will be funded.
 - Item 10 for East Spring Branch Food Pantry's exterior walk-in pantry was pulled from the list since they are still working to obtain permits. Once permits are obtained, discussed possibility of 2025 O&A gift at that time.

- O&A check requests are currently being processed. Gifts will be mailed within the next week or two.
- In addition to O&A gifts, \$200,000 for Hurricane Helene relief was approved in 2024. Outreach is evaluating local churches and efforts to support. Outreach is also evaluating local churches and relief work in CA following the wildfires to support from 2025 budget.

V. 2025 Outreach Budget

- Committee budgets were sent to each committee Elder prior to meeting. Each committee budget is slightly increased as compared to last year.
- If a new partner is invited to apply, funding from the local and global balancing account will be transferred to that committee.
- Additionally, one-time, transformational, time sensitive, special projects may be funded from the local and global balancing account (such as the Spring Branch Community Health Center Pharmacy in 2024.)

VI. Discussion and Questions

VII. Committee Reports: Funding Recommendations and Meeting Debriefs

- Global *Sharon Roark*
 1. Missionary Partner: The Adair Family - \$16,500
 2. Missionary Partner: Urgessa Biru - \$11,000
 3. Missionary Partner: Family Serving in Saudi Arabia - \$11,000
 4. Missionary Partner: The Hall Family - \$11,000
 5. Missionary Partner: Family Serving in Jordan - \$11,000
 6. Missionary Partner: The Johnson Family - \$11,000
 7. Missionary Partner: Kristin Jones - \$5,500
 8. Missionary Partner: Couple Serving in Tbilisi, Georgia - \$11,000
 9. Missionary Partner: Family Serving in SE Asia - \$11,000
 10. Missionary Partner: Dan McNerney - \$11,000
 11. Missionary Partner: Kim Zovak - \$11,000
- Sharon Roark made a motion to approve the Global Missionary Partner funding levels as presented. Mike Pelton seconded. The motion passed unanimously.
- Local Committees: DE's first committee meeting is next week. All other local committees have held initial meetings and made assignments to members for 2025 site visits. Discussed interest in additional service opportunities year-round (quarterly) with MDPC outreach partners, such as Magnificat Houses.

VIII. Staff reports

A. Local

Julie LaRue

- a. Reaching out to new members for outreach committees.
- b. Delivered CIRC donations – Local partners and elementary schools.
- c. CanCare 35-year celebration is coming up, along with other partner events. She will circulate invitations and information as available.
- d. Establish a lead team to evaluate potential new partners before they are invited to submit a proposal.

B. Global

Kelsi McCormack

- a. 2025 Global Trips
 - i. El Camino de Santiago – Spain – March 11-22
 - ii. Living Water Women's Trip – Honduras – May 4-10 (full)
 - iii. Budapest Mission Trip for Young Adults – May 17-26
 - iv. Micah Project – Honduras – Fall 2025
 - v. Other Partner and ECO trips that MDPC members can join:
 1. The Outreach Foundation – Lithuania – June 2025
 2. Frontier Fellowship – South Asia – Fall 2025
 3. The Outreach Foundation – Turkey – November 2025
 4. Tbilisi, Georgia – November 2025

- b. Palm Sunday Offering will benefit Living Water International. (A portion of last year's 2024 Palm Sunday offering will fund the well that the MDPC mission team is going to install this May.)

C. Special Initiatives

Amy Delgado

- a. The Special Initiatives Committee will meet later this year to discuss funding for MDPC's strategic initiative partners: Street Grace, Houston Food Bank, Steiger, and Alpha.

IX. Closing Prayer

Amy Delgado

MEETINGS – GENERAL OVERVIEW

Frequency: Monthly (except July), 2nd or 3rd Monday; ahead of Session meeting

Location: In Parlor except in April

Dates:

- March 10
- April 14—Room 122
- May 12
- June 9
- July—No meeting
- August 11
- September 15
- October 20
- November 10
- December 8—m only if needed

Time: 6 p.m. start (typically 1½ to 2 hours)

Agenda: Devotional and Dinner, Funding Proposals, Reports, Closing Prayer

Preparation:

- Individual Committee Funding Proposals due by end of day Friday prior
- Agenda distributed by Saturday for review

Devotional and Dinner:

- March Amy Delgado
- April Marc Laney
- May Mike Pelton
- June Rory Pereira
- August Lisa McChristian
- September Kim Oswald
- October Jennifer Fernelius
- November Sharon Roark

Meeting Minutes: will be distributed for committee review before sending to Session.

Monthly Focus:

MARCH:	Introductions
APRIL – JUNE, AUGUST - OCTOBER:	Funding Proposals
SEPTEMBER/OCTOBER:	Mission Market
	Christmas Eve Partners
	Partner Descriptions
NOVEMBER:	Over and Above projects
DECEMBER:	Only meet if necessary

Personnel Committee Minutes:

February 24, 2025

Attendees: Alf Halvorson, Kelly Handel, Amy Layman, Marcus Vajdos, Kyle Wienert, Matt Pitner, Marty Philips, Nikki Pielop (arrived 5:45)

1. Opening Prayer
2. Introduction & Overview of Personnel Committee
 1. Christina Morse- Personnel Elder (absent), Madison Limbacher- Personnel Elect (absent), Nikki Pielop- Personnel Elect Elect
 2. Kyle Wienert- Treasurer Elect, Kelly Handel- Clerk, Matt Pitner & Marty Phillips -At Large
 3. Non-voting Staff: Alf Halvorson- Sr. Pastor/Head of Staff, Marcus Vajdos- COO, Amy Layman- HR Director
3. Update on previous agenda items
 1. Motion for MDPC to cover Clay Brown's spouse's coverage at 100% and other non-pastoral staff spouses at 50%, matching our current health care cost premium contribution strategy. If approved, the new payroll deduction will start 3/1/2025 with no arrears owed to MDPC for the other spouse currently enrolled. Motion made to approve by Marty Phillips and seconded by Kyle Wienert. MOTION CARRIED.

Brief update: Bob Davis has volunteered to work on a proposal for a policy regarding a non-ordained sabbatical.

Brief Update: Continuation of Benefits policy. We are working with our broker and their compliance team on this since as a church, we are not required to offer COBRA.

4. Staff Updates
 1. Brief discussion on staffing and succession planning with distribution of the Organizational chart. Special Needs p/t and HS Outreach (f/t) remain open. We have a few connections that may lead to interviews but too early at this point. We are looking for 3-4 interns in children's (preferably 1 year college; may look at HS completed junior/senior year) and 3-4 interns in youth (at least 1 year college) for the summer. We are considering job-sharing for children's internships.
 2. Kristi Nondorf joined MDPC as the Relationships Administrative Coordinator, replacing Kami Vaughn who left at the end of 2024.
 3. Kathryn White is stepping down from the Worship/Music Coordinator position but retaining Organist duties, on a part-time basis. Proposal to create a new full-time Worship Director position that will incorporate the administrative responsibilities of the former Worship Coordinator role and manage all Worship staff (talent selection, management, and development), Worship music selections, and special events. **Motion was made to approve the creation of the full-time Worship Director position, finalize compensation, and proceed with posting of position to internal and external candidates. MOTION CARRIED.**
 5. Brief report on Clay Brown's plans for sabbatical (Mar. 1 to May 31) and his success in securing a third-party grant to underwrite his sabbatical expenses.
 6. Compensation Budget Planning report
 1. Across-the-board 3% COLA raises, with few exceptions due to tenure or above salary range.

2. Special market and internal equity adjustments were made for a small group of employees determined by the Lead Team in addition to 3% COLA raises, based on Amy's report on market benchmarks and specific recruiting/retention needs. These were previously approved and budgeted.

3. Increased salaries will begin being paid on March 15.

7. Pastor Retirement Fund – **Motion made to increase quarterly amounts paid to retired pastors from \$1050 to \$1100. MOTION CARRIED.**

8. Policy & Operations Manual update

1. Personnel Committee members agreed to review the personnel section of the Policy & Operations Manual with a view to streamlining and clarifying.

2. Changes will be put before the Session for approval in May/June.

3. Christina Morse to coordinate with the Personnel Committee.

[Alf recuses himself from discussion of pastor raises.]

7(cont.) **Motion to approve pastor raises. MOTION CARRIED.**

Closing Prayer by Kelly Handel.

Worship Committee Minutes:

Monday, February 3, 2025

In Person: Alf H., David S., Hector L., Dan A., Beth C., Michael M., Meliza G., Rachel P., Steffanie D., Charlie G., Mary P., Kathryn, W., Tracy CS. *By Video:* Charles H.

Baptism Reaffirmations with anointed oil

- MDPC will offer baptism REAFFIRMATIONS for those who were baptized either by sprinkle or immersion in the Presbyterian Church or another Christian congregation/denomination. This will be offered to the English-speaking, Fuente and BPC congregations at MDPC.
- The reaffirmation will allow individuals to publicly renew their baptismal covenant, acknowledge their faith, and allow the congregation to reaffirm their commitment to them in their discipleship journey.
- During the Baptism Reaffirmation, the person might introduce themselves, read a personal scripture, give a 1-4 sentence testimony, and be anointed with oil by a pastor. The moment might end with a congregational response/prayer. The Presbyterian Church (ECO) recognizes baptism as a one-time sacrament that is not repeated (Ephesians 4:5-6). Therefore, oil will be used as a sign of the Holy Spirit's presence and blessing. (Luke 3:21-22)
- The reaffirmations will only be scheduled on SPRINKLE baptism dates as it would connect them back to their baptism as an infant. Also, there is not enough time to add reaffirmations on baptism dates that include both sprinkle and immersions.

Christmas Eve Service Times:

- For 2025, Christmas Eve service times will remain the same as 2024. At the end of this year, the Worship Committee will review attendance, parking and other factors to determine if the service times need to be changed for 2026.
- Times from 2024 with attendance:

2:00 pm - 390 ppl (all new)	7:00 pm - 479 ppl (-4% YoY, -20 ppl)
4:00 pm - 1,229 ppl (+2.5% YoY, +30 ppl)	8:30 pm - 306 ppl (-3% YoY, -9 ppl)
5:30 pm - 1,239 ppl (+6% YoY, +80 ppl)	Total: 3,643 (+14.5% YoY, +461 ppl)

2025 Offering (passing offering plates) frequency:

- Ushers will continue to pass the offering plates twice a month for the remainder of 2025 to help with the discipline/habit/regularity/visibility of generosity.
- An offering script will be provided to those setting up the offering at each service so the congregation will hear the same verbiage that enhances the worshipfulness of giving and generosity. The script will include MDPC's dollar for dollar mission.
- Visitors will be acknowledged and reminded that they are not required to participate in the offering; their presence is an offering.

Due to time, topics that were not covered:

- Evangelism/Welcome: How can we more effectively capture and connect with visitors? Dan will email the committee with ideas.
- Three members of the congregation asked if we might add traditional elements to the 8:30 worship service in the Chapel. Will discuss at the next worship committee meeting; date/time TBD.

Creative Worship Team Minutes – Monday, February 24, 2025

ATTENDEES: Alf H., Dan A., Beth C., Rachel P., Kathryn W., Karina F., Christina D., Meliza G., Michael M., Mary P., Steffanie D., David S., Amanda S., and Tracy S. VIRTUAL: Rafael M. and Hector L.

BAPTISMS on March 2

- Logistics were discussed for the flow of one sprinkle and two immersion baptisms in the 9:45 service
- Dan is the pastor for the three baptisms and will oversee the Baptism Rehearsal on Wed, Feb 26

ASH WEDNESDAY SERVICES: March 5

- Service times are 12 noon (Chapel) and 7p (Sanctuary)
- Youth will attend the evening service in lieu of their regular Wed. night Life Groups; Blast Off is cancelled
- We will have ashes and communion at both services

LENTEN SERIES – Words of Woe

- In Matt. 5-7, Jesus preaches on how one should live. In Matt. 23, he gives advice on how one should not live
- For 3 of the Sundays in the series, we will show a brief video of youth/young adults interpreting the scripture
- Alf will include the videos near the beginning of each sermon, either before or after he reads the passage
- With Youth Sunday approaching, it will be nice to involve the youth
- Project Team: Rachel, Michael, Christina

PALM SUNDAY: April 13

- We have scheduled a Living Water video, offering, palm procession and children's choir at 9:45 and 11:15
- To make the day and palm procession more meaningful, we will add an explanation at the beginning of each service
- We want to include more participation of adults and to enhance the experience for the children. Rachel, Steffanie and Tracy will work on this

MAUNDY THURSDAY: April 17

- 7p in the Chapel; includes communion, anointing with oil, and a relational aspect

GOOD FRIDAY- April 18th:

- Cross building sermon illustration. Two men will “build the cross” at the end of worship. The pounding of the nails will be very impactful
- Kathryn will send out notes from previous cross buildings, and Michael will recruit the builders

YOUTH SUNDAY: April 27

- Alf will lead the Youth panel @ 9:45 and will preach a mini sermon at 8:30 and 11:15. Seniors, and possibly some juniors, will give sermonettes at 8:30 and 11:15
- Youth will lead liturgical moments in all services and write the prayer of confession
- Youth art will be featured in the MDPC Gallery (hallway near the choir room)
- Youth will usher at the 9:45 service; offering plates will be passed at all 3 services
- Will honor graduating seniors from high school and college

Our next meeting will be on March 24 at 1 pm. Discussion will include Easter Sunday and the May sermon series.