



## SESSION DOCUMENTS

Mon, June 23, 2025

**Session Meeting Agenda**  
**June 23, 2025**



- 
- 1. Call to Order and Opening Prayer** (Beth Case)
  - 2. Establishment of Quorum** (Kelly Handel)
  - 3. New Members** (Dan Aikins)  
*Jordan Brennan, Michael Brennan, Russ Chase, Terri Chase, José Cuellar, Norma Cuellar, Glauber José Da Rocha, Caroline Alves Maia, Ana Maria Henriquez, Janice Hodge, Robert Hodge, Graham Jones, Lauren Jones, Garrett Jones, Melanie Jones, John Kingsley, Thora Kingsley, José Carmelo Maggiorani Avila, Angelica Montañez, Francisco Montañez, Daniel Morales, Ema Wrege, Fatima A. Morise, Brandon Musick, Jose Arturo Palacios, Lizzie Prochazka, Matt Prochazka, Emily Richardson, Taylor Richardson, Alfonso Rodriguez, Ana Maria Tascon, Hernando Rodriguez, Haley Seaman, Tyler Seaman, Jennay Swinbank, Brett Vinzant, Kelly Vinzant, Monington Von Gonten*  
  
**Motion:** *to receive the above-named friends as Covenant Partners at MDPC.*
  - 4. Clerk's Report** (Kelly Handel and Joe Stockdale)
    - Update on P&O Review
    - Officer Nominations via QR
  - 5. Treasurer's Report** (Chris Arend)

6. **Summer Mission Trips** (Rachel Poysky)
7. **Adult Discipleship Update** (Clay Brown)
  - “The Bible for Life” for 2025-2026
8. **Outreach Update** (Amy Delgado and Kelsi McCormack)
  - MDPC’s Hurricane Helene Gift
9. **Strategic Initiatives Update** (Dan Aikins)
10. **Omnibus Motion**
  - a. **Motion** *to approve the minutes of May 19, 2025, Session Meeting.*
  - b. **Transfers and Dismissals:**  
Please transfer the following active members:  
  
**Johnson, Heather** to Brenham Presbyterian Church, Brenham, TX.
  - c. **Motion from the Strategic Initiatives Committee:** *To approve a two-year commitment to support Bin Wang through The Outreach Foundation for the purpose of planting a Mandarin-speaking church in the Houston area.*
  - d. **Motion** *to approve Outreach Partner Funding for June 2025 as follows:*

**Outreach Ministry**  
**June 2025**

**Consent Agenda items:**

1. Partner Funding Recommendations		Designated	
Buckner Children & Family Services	\$15,000	Family Hope Center at Northside	CFH
Family Point Resources	\$30,000		CFH
Galveston Urban Ministries	\$10,000		CFH
Mission Centers of Houston	\$30,000		CFH
Outreach Center of West Houston	\$10,000		CFH
Small Steps Nurturing Center	\$20,000		CFH
Bo's Place	\$15,000		HSN
His Grace	\$18,000		HSN
Hope and Healing Center and Institute	\$15,000		HSN
East Spring Branch Food Pantry	\$10,000		SBH
Interfaith Ministries	\$35,000	Meals on Wheels and Animeals Programs	SBH
RaiseUp Families	\$25,000	HandUp and LevelUp Programs	SBH
Faith Ministry	\$30,000		Global
Far East Broadcasting Company	\$45,000		Global
Nueva Vida	\$30,000		Global
The Outreach Foundation	\$7,000		Global
Pars Theological Center	\$20,000		Global
<b>Totaling:</b>	<b>\$365,000</b>		

## 2. Church Planting

## Designated

The Outreach Foundation

\$50,000

Chris Bin Wang

**Totaling: \$50,000**

***Year To Date: \$1,442,900***

## 11. 2025 Calendar Reminders

June 29	Dan Aikins Preaching  Summer Sermon Series: The Hall of Fame of Faith & Faithfulness  Patriotic Sunday
July 6	Brett Hurst Preaching  Summer Sermon Series: The Hall of Fame of Faith & Faithfulness
July 13	Laurien Hook Preaching  Summer Sermon Series: The Hall of Fame of Faith & Faithfulness
July 14-18	Summer Celebration! Campus Closure
July 20	Rachel Poysky Preaching  Summer Sermon Series: The Hall of Fame of Faith & Faithfulness  <b>Baptisms</b>
July 27	Beth Case Preaching  Summer Sermon Series: The Hall of Fame of Faith & Faithfulness
August 3	Clay Brown Preaching  Summer Sermon Series: The Hall of Fame of Faith & Faithfulness  <b>Communion</b>
August 10	Guillermo Yela Preaching  Summer Sermon Series: The Hall of Fame of Faith & Faithfulness
August 17	Alf Halvorson Preaching  Kickoff Sunday
August 24	Alf Halvorson Preaching
August 25	Session Meeting   6:30 pm in Chapel

### Remaining 2025 Session Meeting & Important Dates

July -No Meeting  
August 25  
September 22  
October 27  
November- No Meeting  
December 15

### 2026 Important Dates

January 23-24	Staff and Officer Retreat
January 27-29	ECO National Gathering- Atlanta, GA

## 12. Announcements and Additional Business

## 13. Adjournment & Closing Prayer (Rachel Poysky)

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

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

Name	Month to Month			
	May 2025	April 2025	Difference	May 2024
<b>ASSETS</b>				
Unrestricted Cash & Cash Equivalents	2,115,311.91	3,282,886.63	(1,167,574.72)	4,129,460.75
Current Investments (Unrestricted)	1,474,199.21	1,406,448.21	67,751.00	1,484,177.67
<b>Total Unrestricted Cash &amp; Cash Equivalents</b>	<b>3,589,511.12</b>	<b>4,689,334.84</b>	<b>(1,099,823.72)</b>	<b>5,613,638.42</b>
Current Investments (Restricted)	4,351,951.84	4,351,951.84	-	2,379,737.37
Legacy Restricted Cash & Equivalents	4,576,048.84	4,576,048.84	-	5,857,418.81
<b>Total Restricted Cash &amp; Equivalents</b>	<b>8,928,000.68</b>	<b>8,928,000.68</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>8,237,156.18</b>
Prepaid Expense, Deposits, Inventory	645,677.12	195,325.51	450,351.61	313,580.63
Miscellaneous Receivables	14,610.27	9,547.11	5,063.16	26,115.81
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	-	-	-	-
<b>TOTAL ASSETS</b>	<b>22,215,071.63</b>	<b>22,859,480.58</b>	<b>(644,408.95)</b>	<b>22,233,879.28</b>
<b>LIABILITIES</b>				
Accounts Payable	937,468.11	314,146.62	623,321.49	250,199.88
Other Payables	100,276.51	97,101.76	3,174.75	89,173.38
Prepaid Tuition and Fees	136,676.00	126,807.25	9,868.75	140,782.50
Custodial Accounts	13,789.94	13,789.94	-	37,212.17
Note Payable-PNC /PPP	-	-	-	-
<b>TOTAL LIABILITIES</b>	<b>1,188,210.56</b>	<b>551,845.57</b>	<b>636,364.99</b>	<b>517,367.93</b>
<b>NET ASSETS</b>				
Unrestricted Net Assets	10,776,347.36	12,128,457.06	(1,352,109.70)	12,673,690.67
Temp. Restricted Net Assets	5,560,157.34	5,571,172.08	(11,014.74)	3,007,968.45
Perm. Restricted Net Assets	433,857.59	433,857.59	-	433,857.59
Restricted Legacy Net Assets	4,256,498.78	4,174,148.28	82,350.50	5,600,994.64
<b>TOTAL NET ASSETS</b>	<b>21,026,861.07</b>	<b>22,307,635.01</b>	<b>(1,280,773.94)</b>	<b>21,716,511.35</b>
<b>TOTAL LIABILITIES &amp; NET ASSETS</b>	<b>22,215,071.63</b>	<b>22,859,480.58</b>	<b>(644,408.95)</b>	<b>22,233,879.28</b>

**Budgeted Financial Statement for Period 5 - May**  
**SUMMARY INCOME & EXPENSE - 2025**  
**Company#: 1 Name: Memorial Drive Presbyterian Church**  
**Fiscal Year Beginning 1/1/2025**

Description	May Act	2025 YTD Act	2025 YTD Bud	Over (Under) Budget	% Variance YTD	Prior YTD 2024	2025 Budget Full Year
<b>OPERATING INCOME</b>							
Contributions	\$ 722,987	\$ 4,688,586	\$ 4,886,703	\$ (198,118)	(4.05)	\$ 5,041,946	\$ 14,203,392
Bank/Gateway/Credit Card Fees	\$ (3,655)	\$ (25,743)	\$ -	\$ (25,743)	-	\$ (25,937)	\$ -
Ministry Events Revenue	\$ 255,985	\$ 1,612,686	\$ 1,482,518	\$ 130,168	8.78	\$ 1,416,457	\$ 3,388,112
Other Operating Income	\$ 7,026	\$ 41,003	\$ 41,667	\$ (664)	(1.59)	\$ 250,932	\$ 100,000
<b>TOTAL OPERATING INCOME</b>	<b>982,343</b>	<b>6,316,531</b>	<b>6,410,888</b>	<b>(94,357)</b>	<b>(1.47)</b>	<b>6,683,398</b>	<b>17,691,504</b>
<b>Ministry Operating Expense</b>							
<b>Pastoral Ministry</b>							
Caring Ministry	\$ 34,187	\$ 171,511	\$ 191,596	\$ (20,086)	10.48	\$ 169,643	\$ 456,835
Fuente	\$ 13,850	\$ 70,324	\$ 66,000	\$ 4,324	(6.55)	\$ 73,987	\$ 160,781
Children's Ministry	\$ 80,661	\$ 344,208	\$ 362,810	\$ (18,602)	5.13	\$ 324,240	\$ 897,412
Youth Ministry	\$ 51,376	\$ 245,445	\$ 287,938	\$ (42,493)	14.76	\$ 216,819	\$ 702,140
Relationships	\$ 27,397	\$ 158,441	\$ 167,285	\$ (8,844)	5.29	\$ 154,136	\$ 388,560
Sports and REACH Programs	\$ 8,269	\$ 184,770	\$ 174,158	\$ 10,612	(6.09)	\$ 163,977	\$ 484,570
Outreach (Admin)	\$ 58,380	\$ 281,147	\$ 277,065	\$ 4,082	(1.47)	\$ 270,968	\$ 661,504
Adult Discipleship	\$ 34,976	\$ 176,043	\$ 176,065	\$ (22)	0.01	\$ 165,469	\$ 422,584
Young Adult	\$ 18,724	\$ 102,198	\$ 86,810	\$ 15,388	(17.73)	\$ 55,298	\$ 207,510
Worship	\$ 37,579	\$ 192,593	\$ 205,685	\$ (13,092)	6.37	\$ 217,070	\$ 482,268
Traditional Music	\$ 35,434	\$ 202,733	\$ 183,555	\$ 19,178	(10.45)	\$ 198,094	\$ 450,868
Contemporary Music	\$ 27,553	\$ 141,398	\$ 137,295	\$ 4,103	(2.99)	\$ 141,110	\$ 332,968
Brazilian Ministry	\$ 14,872	\$ 69,957	\$ 83,655	\$ (13,698)	16.37	\$ 78,473	\$ 200,768
<b>Total Pastoral Ministry</b>	<b>\$ 443,259</b>	<b>\$ 2,340,768</b>	<b>\$ 2,399,918</b>	<b>\$ (59,150)</b>	<b>2.46</b>	<b>\$ 2,229,284</b>	<b>\$ 5,848,767</b>
<b>Support Ministry</b>							
Communications & Media	\$ 79,253	\$ 390,089	\$ 364,290	\$ 25,799	(7.08)	\$ 404,621	\$ 872,794
Administration	\$ 70,074	\$ 356,663	\$ 369,119	\$ (12,456)	3.37	\$ 343,889	\$ 929,040
Food Service	\$ 15,131	\$ 70,615	\$ 66,667	\$ 3,949	(5.92)	\$ 65,850	\$ 160,000
Facilities & Technology	\$ 229,533	\$ 1,097,599	\$ 1,074,111	\$ 23,488	(2.19)	\$ 1,196,772	\$ 2,586,448
The Little School	\$ 100,720	\$ 561,486	\$ 548,885	\$ 12,601	(2.30)	\$ 511,269	\$ 1,324,610
The Yellow School	\$ 72,270	\$ 340,832	\$ 315,750	\$ 25,082	(7.94)	\$ 333,177	\$ 768,714
<b>Total Support Ministry</b>	<b>\$ 566,982</b>	<b>\$ 2,817,283</b>	<b>\$ 2,738,822</b>	<b>\$ 78,462</b>	<b>(2.86)</b>	<b>\$ 2,855,579</b>	<b>\$ 6,641,606</b>
Anticipated Budget Reduction	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	#DIV/0!	\$ -	\$ -
<b>Total Ministry Operating Expense</b>	<b>\$ 1,010,241</b>	<b>\$ 5,158,051</b>	<b>\$ 5,138,739</b>	<b>\$ 19,312</b>	<b>-0.38%</b>	<b>\$ 5,084,863</b>	<b>\$ 12,490,373</b>
<b>Outreach Expense</b>							
Outreach - Ministry Sponsored	\$ 170,361	\$ 494,507	\$ 582,367	\$ (87,859.53)	15.09	\$ 426,159	\$ 1,554,757
Outreach - Ministry Partners	\$ 1,096,900	\$ 1,276,225	\$ 753,000	\$ 523,225.30	(69.49)	\$ 1,016,281	\$ 2,996,373
<b>Total Outreach Expense</b>	<b>\$ 1,267,261</b>	<b>\$ 1,770,733</b>	<b>\$ 1,335,367</b>	<b>\$ 435,365.77</b>	<b>(32.60)</b>	<b>\$ 1,442,440</b>	<b>\$ 4,551,130</b>
<b>Other Operating Expense</b>							
Insurance & Legal	\$ 52,784	\$ 250,624	\$ 250,000	\$ 624	(0.25)	\$ 233,128	\$ 600,000
Capital Additions/Reserve	\$ 4,167	\$ 20,833	\$ 20,833	\$ -	-	\$ 20,833	\$ 50,000
<b>Total Other Operating Expense</b>	<b>\$ 56,950</b>	<b>\$ 271,457</b>	<b>\$ 270,833</b>	<b>\$ 624</b>	<b>(0.23)</b>	<b>\$ 253,961</b>	<b>\$ 650,000</b>
<b>TOTAL OPERATING EXPENSES</b>	<b>\$ 2,334,453</b>	<b>\$ 7,200,241</b>	<b>\$ 6,744,939</b>	<b>\$ 455,302</b>	<b>-6.75%</b>	<b>\$ 6,781,264</b>	<b>\$ 17,691,504</b>
<b>Other Income(Loss)</b>							
<b>Total Other Income(Loss)</b>	<b>\$ -</b>	<b>\$ -</b>	<b>\$ -</b>	<b>\$ -</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>\$ -</b>	<b>\$ -</b>
<b>NET INCOME (LOSS)</b>	<b>\$ (1,352,110)</b>	<b>\$ (883,710)</b>	<b>\$ (334,051)</b>	<b>\$ (549,659)</b>	<b>164.54%</b>	<b>\$ (97,866)</b>	<b>\$ 1</b>
Restr & Enrichment Inc/(Exp)	\$ 71,336	\$ (146,747)	\$ -	\$ (146,747)	-	\$ 469,320	\$ -

## **“The Bible for Life” for 2025-26**

### **1. The Need**

- **More Bible study:** one of the ways God grows and matures us
- **More Bible study choices:** create new classes for those not plugged into existing ones because existing classes can be difficult for newcomers to join
- **More Bible study choices with clear start/finish dates:** can choose studies they enjoy, and then choose a new one when the first one is completed
- **More Bible study choices with clear start/finish dates on Sunday mornings:** because Sunday mornings are optimal time for most schedules if you attend worship

### **2. The Plan: “The Bible for Life”**

**August 17—December 14, 2025: 18 sessions**

**11:00**

- **Gospel of John, Amphitheater: Clay**
- **Genesis, Summit Room: Laurien**
- **The Big Story Series, Room 122: Leigh** (The Bible’s Big Story, Theology’s Big Story, and Christianity’s Big Story)

**9:45**

- **Gospel of John, Amphitheater: Clay**
- **Genesis, Summit Room: Leigh**

**January 4—March 29, 2026: 12 sessions for 11:00 and 9:45**

### **3. The Infrastructure**

- **Addition, not subtraction:** *no existing classes closed or cancelled*
- **Goal:** Multiple options of BYF-style classes for both 11:00 and 9:45
- **Lead Teachers:** Clay, Laurien, and Leigh
- **Key: Teacher Cohort to teach with Clay, Laurien, and Leigh**
  - Developing and nurturing additional teachers from MDPC
  - Focus on “emotionally healthy leadership,” so teams of teachers
  - Teacher Cohort developed by Leigh
  - Teachers from Cohort will teach with Clay, Laurien, and Leigh
- **Curriculum suggestions for existing classes:**
  - *John for Everyone* by N. T. Wright with included study guide
  - *The Bible Speaks Today: John* by Bruce Milne with included study guide
  - Three six-week courses from MDPC’s *The Equipped Disciple* small group series over two years
    - Fall 2025: “The Studying Disciple,” “The Serving Disciple,” and “The Giving Disciple”
    - Fall 2026: “The Praying Disciple,” “The Witnessing Disciple,” and “The Worshiping Disciple”
- **Consistent dates:** Kickoff Sunday (3rd Sunday of August) to Palm Sunday

# Called meeting of the Strategic Initiatives Committee on 6/11/2025

## Minutes

Present: Amy Delgado, Julie LaRue, Kelsi McCormack, Dan Aikins

Absent: Tom Braschayko

Meeting was called to order. Motion was presented.

As part of the motion discussion, the team reviewed the proposal (Attachment 1), which Dan prepared through conversation and feedback with Alf and Amy. In discussion, the proposal was updated (reflected in the attachment) to clarify that the support for Moving and Resettling Expenses is a reimbursement from MDPC in order to better align with The Outreach Foundation's policies. Discussion also included The Outreach Foundation's excitement for this partnership, Bin's family's likely need for support and community after moving to Houston, Bin's initial schedule and approach to ministry, and God's seeming orchestration of this partnership with Bin through The Outreach Foundation.

Motion passed with unanimous support.

Meeting adjourned.

## Attachment 1 - Proposal: Mandarin Specialist Church Planter Support – Bin Wang

### Motion:

To approve a two-year commitment of support as outlined below for The Outreach Foundation China Specialist, Bin Wang, for the purpose of new church development for Mandarin speakers in the Houston area with funds from Outreach Ministry's balancing budget:

#### Year 1 Support

Up to \$10,000 – Reimbursement for Moving and Resettling Expenses\*

\$40,000 – Living Expenses

\$10,000 – Medical Insurance

#### Year 2 Support

\$40,000 – Living Expenses

\$10,000 – Medical Insurance

Year.7.Total, \$50,000 + Up to \$10,000 Reimbursement

Year.8.Total, \$50,000

\*Reimbursement expenses will be submitted to MDPC

### Explanation:

MDPC has identified Bin Wang as a potential church planter to the Chinese diaspora in the Houston area. Bin is an ordained pastor of the official church in China (CCC/TSPM) and served in China until 2020 until he and his family moved to the United States for seminary studies. In 2023, they were called to serve with The Outreach Foundation (TOF) as a liaison between TOF, the church in China, and US congregations. Bin and his family live in Charlotte, NC.



Pastor Alf met Bin while traveling to China on a TOF vision trip. After spending nearly two weeks with Bin, Pastor Alf was impressed with Bin's Christian character, pastoral leadership, intercultural savvy, and passion for lost people to hear the Gospel and obey. As they shared about their ministries, Pastor Alf explained MDPC's multicultural congregations. The idea piqued Bin's interest. After the trip, Bin asked Alf to consider a partnership with MDPC for a Chinese church or congregation through MDPC.

Simultaneously, Alf, Amy, and Dan began a conversation about MDPC's future in church planting and developed plans for the Church Planting Task Force (Task Force). The Task Force is early in its work and is not ready to shape a vision for partnering with Bin. Even so, Alf, Amy, and Dan discern that God is leading us to partner with Bin through TOF for church planting. The Task Force agrees but is also not ready to lead the partnership.

Outreach Ministry's Strategic Initiatives Committee (Committee) is the appropriate team to take initial ownership of the partnership and funding. The Strategic Initiatives Committee will invite Bin to apply as a local Mandarin-speaking specialist and fund the partnership through the Outreach Ministries balancing budget.

Later, the Committee and Task Force may agree to transfer leadership to the Task Force.

In partnership with Bin through TOF, MDPC will:

- Fund Bin's work through OF as a missionary church planter in the Houston area,
- Provide pastoral and relational support to Bin and his family,
- Collaborate with Bin's vision and plan for an ECO church plant in the Houston area,
- Develop outcome metrics with Bin and assess progress,
- Provide ministry support to Bin's ministry when appropriate and available, and
- Remain flexible regarding God's leading and blessing on the above-outlined plan.

In partnership with MDPC through TOF, Bin will:

- Engage the ECO church planting assessment and coaching process within one month of moving to Houston,
- Develop an initial church planting plan with the help of ECO,
- Prayerfully discern the locations around the Houston area to focus his ministry efforts,
- Develop outcome metrics with MDPC to assess progress,
- Work toward developing an independent church plant for Mandarin-speaking people, and
- Remain flexible regarding God's leading and blessing on the above-outlined plan.

## **Outreach Ministries Funding Recommendations June 2025**

### **CFH**

#### **Buckner Children & Family Services**

2024 Funding: \$35,000 (\$15,000 and \$20,000 O&A)

#### **2025 Funding Recommendation: \$15,000 (Designated: Family Hope Center at Northside)**

The Buckner Family Hope Center at Northside is a child-centered, family-focused place where families go to find hope, support, and empowerment to reach their full God-given potential. The key to the Family Hope Center's success is found in combining effective programs and passionate people to help families that are experiencing poverty, family issues, and a lack of services.

<https://www.buckner.org/houston>

#### **Family Point Resources**

2024 Funding: \$34,654 (\$30,000 and \$4,654 O&A)

#### **2025 Funding Recommendation: \$30,000**

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

<https://www.familypointresources.com>

#### **Galveston Urban Ministries**

2024 Funding: \$14,000 (\$10,000 and \$4,000 O&A)

#### **2025 Funding Recommendation: \$10,000**

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

<https://galvestonurbanministries.org>

#### **Mission Centers of Houston**

2024 Funding: \$30,000

#### **2025 Funding Recommendation: \$30,000**

Mission Centers of Houston provides for the physical and spiritual needs of people living in the Magnolia Park and Near Northside communities and works to eradicate the effects of multigenerational poverty and homelessness. Through ongoing relationships, age-graded programs and mission partnerships they change lives with the love, mercy, and grace of Jesus Christ.

<https://www.missioncenters.org>

**Outreach Center of West Houston**

2024 Funding: \$15,000 (\$10,000 and \$5,000 O &A)

**2025 Funding Recommendation: \$10,000**

The Outreach Center of West Houston is a low- to no-cost facility for local non-profit organizations. They serve a vital role in the community by providing an affordable home and gathering space to partners that provide life-changing and life-saving programs in West Houston. Current MDPC partners implementing programming here include Family Point Resources and Young Life Westside.

<https://www.oc-wh.org>

**Small Steps Nurturing Center**

2024 Funding: \$25,000 (\$20,000 and \$5,000 O &A)

**2025 Funding Recommendation: \$20,000**

Small Steps Nurturing Center is an exemplary early childhood program that fosters the social, emotional, physical, intellectual, and spiritual growth of children from low-income families in a nurturing Christian environment. With locations in Houston's Fifth Ward and Sharpstown/Gulfton areas, they provide high-quality education, transportation, nutritious meals, and social and emotional therapy to economically at-risk children.

<https://www.ssnc.org>

**HSN****Bo's Place**

2024 Funding: \$12,000 (Over and Above: \$0)

**2025 Funding Recommendation: \$15,000**

Bo's Place exists to enhance the lives of those who have experienced the death of a loved one. They offer grief support groups for children, families, and adults, special programming for support group participants, and bereavement-specific workshops for professionals supporting the bereaved.

<https://www.bosplace.org>

**His Grace Foundation**

2024 Funding: \$18,000 (Over and Above: \$16,750)

**2025 Funding Recommendation: \$18,000**

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

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

**Hope and Healing Center Institute**

2024 Funding: \$10,000 (Over and Above: \$0)

**2025 Funding Recommendation: \$15,000**

The Hope and Healing Center Institute is a comprehensive mental health resource serving the Greater Houston community and beyond. In an effort to remove barriers to accessing high quality mental healthcare, HHCI provides all services free of charge.

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

## **SBH**

### **East Spring Branch Food Pantry**

2024 Funding: \$5,000

#### **2025 Funding Recommendation: \$10,000 (Designation: None)**

East Spring Branch Food Pantry is a client choice pantry serving residents in the Spring Branch area with fresh and shelf stable food. Nutrition classes, Food Fairs and Thanksgiving meals are other programs offered. ESBFP is led and run by a team of dedicated volunteers.

[www.eastspringbranchfoodpantry.com](http://www.eastspringbranchfoodpantry.com)

### **I\*M Houston – Meals on Wheels and Animeals**

2024 Funding: \$35,000 (plus \$18,000 Over & Above)

#### **2025 Funding Recommendation: \$35,000 (Designation: Meals on Wheels and Animeals Programs)**

I\*M Houston's Meals on Wheels program provides fully prepared, nutritious meals and other assistance to at-risk seniors in Harris, Galveston, and surrounding counties each weekday to ensure their health and independence. In addition, seniors with pets may sign up for the Animeals program to receive free pet food and preventive vet care. [www.imgh.org](http://www.imgh.org)

### **RaiseUp Families**

2024 Funding: \$25,000

#### **2025 Funding Recommendation: \$25,000 (Designation: HandUp and LevelUp programs)**

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

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

## **Global Ministries**

### **Faith Ministry**

2024 Funding: \$30,000

#### **2025 Funding Recommendation: \$30,000**

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

### **Far East Broadcasting Company**

2024 Funding: \$45,000

#### **2025 Funding Recommendation: \$45,000**

Far East Broadcasting Company (FEBC) seeks to make Jesus known among the world's least reached people by sharing the Good News through various media. FEBC broadcasts in 152 languages in 50 countries. For over 75 years, FEBC has been focusing on meeting the spiritual needs of their listeners and inspiring them to follow Jesus Christ. [www.febc.org](http://www.febc.org)

**Nueva Vida**

2024 Funding: \$30,000

**2025 Funding Recommendation: \$30,000**

Nueva Vida is a multifaceted ministry serving children affected by disabilities and their families through comprehensive therapy services, grade school education, and intentional community outreach and collaboration in Santa Maria de Jesus, Guatemala. These children of God are rarely accepted in the public school and public square, but can find a loving family at Nueva Vida, sharing hope, sharing Christ, and supporting each child to achieve their God-given potential. [nuevavidaguatemala.org](http://nuevavidaguatemala.org)

**The Outreach Foundation**

2024 Funding: \$7,000

**2025 Funding Recommendation: \$7,000**

The Outreach Foundation is an independent Presbyterian global mission organization that connects congregations and people in the United States with church partners around the world in Christ-centered evangelistic mission. It seeks to build the capacity of the global church to proclaim the Good News of Jesus Christ by sending missionaries, building relationships, expanding mission support, and equipping their global partners. <https://www.theoutreachfoundation.org/>

**Pars Theological Center**

2024 Funding: \$20,000

**2025 Funding Recommendation: \$20,000**

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

**Living Water International**

2025 Palm Sunday Offering: \$25,963

Living Water International exists to demonstrate the love of God by helping communities acquire desperately needed clean water, and experience “living water”—the gospel of Jesus Christ—which alone satisfies the deepest thirst. Mission teams work in impoverished communities to provide a water well and hygiene education, and to share the love of Christ. [www.water.cc](http://www.water.cc)

MINUTES OF THE STATED MEETING OF THE SESSION  
Memorial Drive Presbyterian Church  
May 19, 2025

**Elders Present:** Jeannie Able, Chris Arend, Sandy Ballard, Carla Bradford, Rick Chapman, Ellen Davidson, Stephanie Espinoza, Ginny French, Kelly Handel, Alex Knoop, Madison Limbacher, Hector Longoria, Stefano Lugo, Marc Laney, Bob Larson, Lisa McChristian, Michael McCormack, Kim Oswald, Mike Pelton, Rosy Pereira, Sharon Roark, Peggy Samuels, David Shelfer, Nathan Stedham, Joe Stockdale

**Elders Excused:** Amanda Austin, Jennifer Fernelius, Tarryn Lankford, Michael Kringel, Rafael Moreira, Christina Morse, Ryan Taylor, Andre Verona

**Elders Absent:** Nikki Pielop, Leslie Sloan, Hunter Smith, Kyle Wienert, Mat Yelvington

**Pastors Present:** Dan Aikins, Beth Case, Almir Dias, Brett Hurst, Rachel Poysky, Guillermo Yela

**Pastors Absent:** Clay Brown, Alf Halvorson

**Staff Present:** Laura Benes, Jennifer Vajdos, Marcus Vajdos

**Call to Order:** Pastor Beth Case called the meeting of the Session of Memorial Drive Presbyterian Church to order at 6:32 pm in the Chapel. Beth opened with an update on Pastor Alf followed by a reading and the promises from Psalm 121 and prayer specifically for Alf and Shari.

**Call for Quorum:** The Clerk, Kelly Handel, affirmed that a quorum was present. A reminder was made to check in on the MDPC app!

**Emotionally Healthy Leadership** (Rachel Poysky)

We are in a year long conversation on The Emotionally Healthy Leader since the Session retreat- This month Rachel led us in a discussion of living into our values based on content in a book by Brene Brown Dare to Lead. **Know Your Values** -the values that we name are the values we should carry into every aspect of our lives with integrity. These values should be consistent across your life, especially as Christians, and should incorporate professional and personal values. The human condition is to be inconsistent. Rachel shared that she had a date night conversation many years ago that impacted her family life ever since: **What do we value, what are our priorities, and how do we arrange our lives around that?** It is important to name what is important to us and live out of those values in what you say yes and no to-- we should operate out of our values and priorities- Rachel read an excerpt from Brene Brown's book Dare to Lead and noted that we should pick values that are what is true for us, not what has been named *for* us!

Pick five top values from **List of Values** handout-things that are really standing out-then ultimately narrow down to two – if you have too many, you are not going to be able to fall back on them...these should be values through which decisions are made- it requires practice-your behavior should line up with your value...Do a time assessment! It's a humbling exercise to see if your time lines up with values.

We went through this exercise ourselves and then in groups 3-4 discussed **Which of the Core Values listed do we identify with most?** We were encouraged to go through this exercise with your spouse, your family, and your teams at MDPC and at work. How can you lead out of your values? Spend some time with this, prayerfully consider it and in devotional time ask God to direct you in your values.

**Clerk's Report:** (Kelly Handel and Joe Stockdale)

Kelly, Joe, Carla, Jennifer and Marcus will get with each department in the coming weeks to go over proposed

changes to P&O...internal deadline we are shooting for is June 30<sup>th</sup>. Officer Nominations are open through August 25<sup>th</sup>; - at our next meeting we will nominate from the floor.

### **Treasurer's Report:** (Chris Arend)

Chris shared a graph of *MDPC Contributions 2021-2025*. 250K short vs 360K so making up some ground and going in right direction. Chris shared *MTD Income Statement April 2025* – we are fully staffed now which is a great thing- we could move dollars underspent on personnel to cover the buffer but can no longer- Chris asked that as departments and staff, we continue to do what we do best...to think through dollars spent and be good stewards. Question came up about credit card fees- if pay online it does cost church money- however, there is an option to cover the fees when donating. Marcus added that roughly half of the cc fees were covered by the donor in the first quarter.

### **Master Planning Update** (Mike Handel)

Mike briefly shared composition of committee- nine at- large, he and Cheryl Moore-co chairs, Marcus, Alf, Carter from staff, plus Merriman Holt – a “Dream Team” -their job is to build a vision of the church and facility in 25 years... they have begun to put conceptual ideas out there and going back to areas for input- committee is reflective of who this church is -example is committee member, Bill McDonald, who represents the Scouts and that corner of our property – if we please 80% but off-putting to 20%, we failed. This is a series of compromises, so if everyone is a little disgruntled, then our job is well done! We are working under the umbrella of our four core principles/goals. It has become crystal clear that to be relevant in the coming years, we need more of a welcoming presence- what does this look like? From the outside/inside? We want our solutions to be “the best all things considered.” Before opening up for questions, Mike mentioned that we would need to hire feasibility consultants (approved by Session first) to determine our capability. We must have good children’s areas- right now we are delivering excellent programming **despite** our facilities – we want to make our facilities **a part** of what the ministry wants to accomplish. We are constrained by our footprint as we know. Brett brought up again what Mike mentioned- there are many that don’t know about this master planning effort- some that don’t come to Sunday school, that are sporadic in worship, etc. but feel like this church is their home- Brett suggested a quarterly one- pager be sent.

Many, many questions and great discussion. Please go to the website and ask questions-email link to small groups!

### **Legacy Update** (Marcus Vajdos)

**Motion** to approve \$50,000 from donated Legacy General Funds for alternate architectural review.

Marcus, Mike Handel, and Sandy Ballard updated us with the details of this motion. The funds have not been donated yet, so if we turn down this motion, these funds are not available to us for this specific purpose. This is a gift and highly unusual. There is a big advantage to having an outside review and to turn over all stones at this point in our plans -to look from a different vantage point - whether this review is by an architect, a consultant or both. Beth clarified that the Motion is to **receive the gift** of \$50,000 from donated Legacy General Funds for alternate architectural review. It does not need a second, but it does need discussion which we’ve had before a vote. Motion Carried.

### **Omnibus Agenda:**

Beth introduced the Omnibus Motion below for May and asked if there were any items that needed to be removed for separate consideration. She then asked for a motion to approve the Omnibus Motion as presented, which was forthcoming, seconded, and affirmed by unanimous voice vote.

#### **1. Omnibus Motion**

- a. **Motion** to approve the minutes of the April 28, 2025, Session Meeting.
- b. **Motion** to approve the following baptisms performed in May 2025:

Name	Age	Parents	Member	Date
Hudson Michael Mueller	Infant	Kaitlin Handel and Nicholas Mueller	Mom-Yes Dad-Yes	5/11/2025 sprinkle

Berkley Anne Nondorf	Infant	Kristi Handel and Garrett Nondorf	Mom-Yes Dad-Yes	5/11/2025 sprinkle
Margaret Elizabeth Sears	Infant	Elizabeth Wright and Thomas Spears	Mom-Yes Dad-Yes	5/11/2025 sprinkle

- c. **Motion** to increase the sabbatical stipend for Pastors to \$10,000.  
d. **Motion** to approve Outreach Partner Funding for May 2025 as follows:

**Outreach Ministry – Partner  
Funding Recommendations**  
**Consent Agenda items:**

Partner Funding Recommendations		Designated	
Agape Development Ministries	\$40,000		CFH
Open Door Mission	\$45,000		CFH
SEARCH	\$30,000	House of Tiny Treasures	CFH
Forge for Families	\$32,500		CFH
Camp Blessing	\$20,000		DE
Camp for All	\$15,000	Camper Scholarships	DE
Cho Yeh Camp and Conference Center	\$60,000	Camper Scholarships	DE
Presbyterian Mo Ranch Assembly	\$12,000	Camp in the Valley	DE
Amazing Place	\$35,000		HSN
Lifehouse Houston	\$10,000		HSN
Parent Project Muscular Dystrophy	\$13,000	South Texas Family Camp	HSN
Prayers of the People	\$5,000	Language Advocacy Programs	HSN
Vita-Living	\$25,000		HSN
Memorial Assistance Ministries (MAM)	\$20,000	English Literacy Program	SBH
Nabor House Community	\$22,400	Scholarships	SBH
Spring Branch Community Health Center	\$35,000		SBH
Spring Spirit	\$25,000		SBH
The Antioch Partners	\$35,000		Global
Faith in Practice	\$30,000		Global
Frontier Fellowship	\$25,000		Global
The Protestant Churches of Egypt -The Evangelical Fellowship of Egypt	\$10,000	Lulwanda Children's Home	Global
Grace International Children's Foundation	\$27,000	Renewing Our Minds (ROM)	Global
Forum for Leadership and Reconciliation	\$20,000		Global
<b>Totaling:</b>	<b>\$591,900</b>		
<b>Year To Date:</b>	<b>\$1,027,900</b>		

**2025 Calendar Reminders**

May 18	Officer Nominations Open
May 19	Session Meeting   6:30 pm in Chapel
May 25	Dan Aikins Preaching  Memorial Day Weekend
June 1	Communion  Summer Sermon Series: <i>The Hall of Fame of Faith &amp; Faithfulness</i>



June 8	Summer Sermon Series: <i>The Hall of Fame of Faith &amp; Faithfulness</i>
June 15	Summer Sermon Series: <i>The Hall of Fame of Faith &amp; Faithfulness</i>
	Father's Day  Baptisms
June 22	Beth Case Preaching  Summer Sermon Series: <i>The Hall of Fame of Faith &amp; Faithfulness</i>
June 23	Session Meeting   6:30 pm in Chapel

### **Remaining 2025 Session Meeting & Important Dates**

June 23  
July -No Meeting  
August 25  
September 22  
October 27  
November- No Meeting  
December 15

July 14-18 Summer Celebration

### **2026 Important Dates**

January 23-24	Staff and Officer Retreat
January 27-29	ECO National Gathering- Atlanta, GA

### **Announcements and Additional Business**

Officer Nominations Are Open; Ellen Davidson mentioned we are short 4 teachers for Summer Celebration; Alex Knoop-openings July 20-25 backpacking trip in Colorado

### **Adjournment**

A **Motion** to adjourn the May 2025 Session Meeting was made at 7:55 p.m.

Invited to pray in groups of 2-3 for Pastor Alf, Master Planning, Summer Celebration, and for each other!

Minutes respectfully submitted on behalf of Kelly Handel, Clerk.

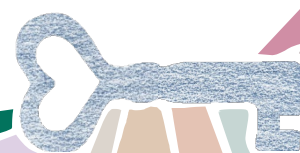
By Jennifer Vajdos, Executive Ministries Coordinator, May 2025



# List of Values

Accountability	Efficiency	Intuition	Security
Achievement	Environment	Job security	Self-discipline
Activism	Equality	Joy	Self-expression
Adaptability	Ethics	Justice	Self-respect
Adventure	Excellence	Kindness	Serenity
Altruism	Fairness	Knowledge	Service
Ambition	Faith	Leadership	Simplicity
Authenticity	Family	Learning	Spirituality
Balance	Financial stability	Legacy	Stewardship
Beauty	Forgiveness	Leisure	Success
Being the best	Freedom	Love	Teamwork
Being a good sport	Friendship	Loyalty	Thrift
Belonging	Fun	Making a difference	Time
Career	Future generations	Nature	Tradition
Caring	Generosity	Openness	Travel
Co-creation	Giving back	Optimism	Trust
Collaboration	Grace	Order	Truth
Commitment	Gratitude	Parenting	Understanding
Community	Growth	Patience	Uniqueness
Compassion	Harmony	Patriotism	Usefulness
Competence	Health	Peace	Vision
Confidence	Heritage	Perseverance	Vulnerability
Connection	Home	Personal fulfillment	Wealth
Contentment	Honesty	Power	Wellbeing
Contribution	Hope	Pride	Wholeheartedness
Cooperation	Humility	Recognition	Wisdom
Courage	Humor	Reliability	
Creativity	Inclusion	Resourcefulness	
Curiosity	Independence	Respect	
Dignity	Initiative	Responsibility	
Diversity	Integrity	Risk-taking	

Write your own:



## Combined Minutes of the Session Committees June 2025

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

May 20, 2025

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

**Absent:** Terral Cesak, Olga Griffin, Judy Gordon Lesikar, Barbara Mueller

**Opening Prayer and Devotional on 1 Thess 5:12-18: Bob Larson**

**Discussion on the Master Plan:** Beth led an overview of the Master Plan information on the MDPC website and encouraged everyone to go through it in more detail on their own. She also shared that session just approved the use of a \$50,000 legacy gift to hire an outside consultant/architect firm for fresh eyes and a second opinion.

### **Ministry Reports**

#### **Community Relations – Hot Topics**

- **On March 27, the final presentation of the Hot Topics Spring series was presented by Lt. Roy Guinn, Constable from Precinct 5, on the subject of Identity Theft & Scams. There were 70 people in attendance.**
- **Recordings of the sessions can be found on the MDPC website under Media / Watch & Listen.**
- **The spring series was very successful, and people are asking what is next. A committee has met to discuss future possibilities. Trafficking and women's safety and security are being considered.**

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

- **March:** The Gathering Place met on Wednesday, March 5. There were 8 care partners, 7 caregivers, and 12 volunteers present. There was a craft, group exercise, live music, lunch and bingo. The Caregivers Luncheon was held on Thursday, March 20 with 8 participants attending.
- **April:** The Gathering Place met on Wednesday, April 2. There were 8 care partners, 5 caregivers and 7 volunteers present. There was a craft, group exercise, live music, lunch and bingo. The Caregivers Luncheon was held on Thursday, April 17.
- **CarePartners** hosted a lovely Volunteer Luncheon on April 1. Several people from MDPC were in attendance and enjoyed being with other people from across the Houston area.
- **Susanne McClean** invited all Gathering Place volunteers to her home for a special thank you luncheon on April 16. It was a great way for the team to spend time together.

#### **Grief Support:**

- **Transforming Grief:** The next series of the Transforming Grief program is now scheduled for August 13 – October 1 from 3:30-5:00pm on Wednesday afternoons. Contact Beverly Fluke for more information.
- **The Widows Connection:** **The Widows Connection group continues to meet for lunch on the third Tuesday of each month at 11:30am at MDPC. There are usually between 9-15 ladies in attendance.**
- **Ministry of Presence:** Caring Ministries staff and officers send out cards and grief books to MDPC members during their first year of losing a loved one.

#### **Health Ministry -- Blood Drive:**

- Our next MDPC blood drive will be Sunday, June 8, from 10:00am - 2:30pm. We're thankful to Gulf Coast Regional Blood Center for their presence and professionalism, and to Debbie Cordell and Nancy Kimmey for their dedication and friendly hosting. One date remains in 2025 for MDPC Blood Drives: 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 met in March but not in April when the meeting date fell during Holy Week. We look forward to two new volunteers joining us in the month of May.
- 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:

- March: 3 memorial services with receptions. 1 inurnment service in the Columbarium.
- April: 3 memorial services with receptions. 3 inurnment services in the Columbarium
- April 23: Columbarium Committee meeting was held.

### Prayer Ministry:

- **Silent Word:** The Deacons set up on Palm Sunday, April 13, in the Parlor. The Silent Word ran through Holy Week.
- **National Day of Prayer** had the MDPC Staff participating in a Prayer Bus Tour led by one of our Outreach Partners, Spring Spirit. Prayers were led by Pastor Guillermo, Pastor Almir, and members/staff from other churches on this bus tour.

### Second Family:

- Second Family Volunteers spent 106 hours supporting their care partners during April 2025. In April we had 10 care partners in Second Family, and two who received Mobile Meals on Mondays and Thursdays.
- We are excited to welcome two new volunteers to the Second Family team. God's timing is perfect because we just added a few more care partners who may need help in June.
- One of our care partners completed his chemo treatments in April. Another "rang the bell" at MD Anderson at the completion of her 20 chemo treatments in a 4-week regime which was intense. Thanks to Susanne McClean for coordinating all the volunteers. We also reached out to MDPC's mission partner **Senior Rides & More** to provide some of the rides. They did a great job. One of our team members, Dale Ann Adame, also volunteers at Senior Rides & More. She decided to volunteer because they were the Ministry partner on her Partners in Prayer list. Sounds like God's plan at work!
- The care partners are very grateful for the visits, trips to grocery stores and doctor's appointments. But many care partners are most excited to see Niko the therapy dog and his owner! 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 the 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:** On April 7, Ken Wise gave a presentation "Tales of Texas History with 49 attending. On May 5, Marcus Vajdos, MDPC's Chief Operating Officer, told 51 about being Mayor of Spring Valley Village. There are no summer activities planned for Venturers.
- **Encore Fellowship:** On March 22, the Encore group enjoyed dinner at Demeris BBQ with 20 attending. On April 29, there was a Cinco de Mayo celebration at Chavez Mexican Restaurant with 26 attending. On May

13, there was a Patio Party in the Spring Branch area with 21 attending. A Happy Hour at Union Kitchen is planned for June 12.

- **Prime Timers:** On March 19, the Prime Timers made a shopping trip to several resale shops with 13 attending. On April 16, there was a guided tour of the Holocaust Museum Houston and lunch at Hungry's with 11 attending. On May 21, a bus trip to The Antique Rose Emporium in Chappel Hill and lunch at Bevers Kitchen is planned with 14 signed up. Prime Timers will again host a free Summer Film Series in the Amphitheater in June, July, and August featuring *The Six Triple Eight*, *The Wild Robot*, *Conclave*, and *Nickel Boys*. All are invited.
- **Senior Adult Fellowship Lunch:** The monthly Senior Adult Fellowship Lunch is held on the third Monday each month at MDPC Café to have lunch, meet new friends, and learn more about existing friends. A time of Show and Tell at each lunch is always enjoyed. The monthly themes are:
  - March 17 – Anything You Treasure
  - April 22 – Art
  - May 19 – Food & Cooking Items
  - June 16 – Woodworking/Carpentry
  - July 21 – Stitchery
  - August 18 – Something you made or wrote

### **Stephen Ministry:**

- The Stephen Ministry team met twice in March and twice in April. Bitsy Cleveland joined the group on March 25 to discuss Life's Transitions and then Beth Case shared Lessons Learned on the El Camino at the April 22 meeting.
- Plans are underway to highlight Stephen Ministry during worship on June 1.
- 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 the **Aging Roadmap course** taught by Amazing Place on April 2, 9,& 16. Next up will be another Amazing Place offering entitled **Food for a Healthier Brain**. It will be offered in the Parlor at 1:00-2:00pm on May 19. All are invited.

**Closing Prayer:** Christine Gentil

**Next CM Meeting:** The CM Committee decided to follow the same schedule that the Deacons are following and NOT meet in June or July unless there is a need for a called meeting. That means that the next regularly scheduled meeting will be on August 19<sup>th</sup>.

### **Finance Committee Minutes:**

Finance Committee Meeting Minutes May 12, 2025

Present members: Marcus Vajdos, Dena Bankett, Kelly Handel, Christina Morse, Bob Davis, Chris Arend, Kyle Wienert, Rosy Pereira, Karin Tyson, Jennifer Fernelius

Absent members: Michael McCormack, Mark Lumpkin, Bill Enzer

Quorum: there was quorum present

1. The meeting was held in person and started at 5:10pm. Deena Bankett and Chistina Morse attended online.
2. April minutes were approved with no questions
3. A devotional was led by Christina Morse
4. Mr. Arend asked for updates from the different committees:
  - a. Generosity: Mr. Wienert noted that the group is reviewing a new phrase to be used in the new covenant campaign. There were no significant changes to giving, as noted in the email shared.
  - b. Personnel: Ms. Morse explained changes to the sabbatical policy were approved in the last meeting, and the pastor's policy was approved. Changes to the non-pastoral staff remain under discussion. The 2025 budget has not been updated to reflect the financial impact, but it will be included in the 2026 budget. A new youth leader was hired and will start on June 1<sup>st</sup>.

- c. Outreach: Ms. Fernelius reported no updates other than the \$591K payments subject to approval at the meeting being held today.
  - d. Clerk: Ms. Handel noted the group is working with Marcus to rebuild the legacy committee, and a treasurer will be selected to attend those meetings.
5. Mr. Vajdos reported on financials
  - a. 2025 YTD contributions were lower than budget by \$350K.
  - b. 2025 YTD ministry expenses are \$57K under personnel; young adult ministry will update their budget. Support ministry is over \$53K primarily due to not booking outreach components and additional value for teacher appreciation. There was also a benefits expense increase for communication and media charge for insurance. Outreach expenses are not aligned with the budget due to timing. Ms. Vajdos also noted that there is an expectation for some savings within the new insurance policy. The unrealized gains and losses could be used to address a possible shortfall when in a positive market. The facilities budget seems to be extensively managed.
6. Mr. Arend explained the legacy concept and suggested the committee needs to discuss and clarify how the cash is allocated and set up for the purpose of being fully transparent. Consider a 5-year budget for certain projects. Mr. Davis reminded us of the need for a list of capital projects. Denna explained that a few years ago all capital projects would come out of the legacy budget. The legacy committee will meet in June and Mr. Arend will attend the meeting.
7. Mr. Wienert explained the Outreach reserves an amount for "rainy" days. There was a question regarding whether the \$200K expected for church planting will come out of the Outreach budget.
8. New business:
  - a. Mr. Davis provided updates from the Insurance Committee. There were changes to the policy and the office building was assessed to hold the highest amount, not the sanctuary. It was assessed that the risk of all three buildings being damaged at the same time is low, and it is possible that we are fully funded to cover the insurance deductible. The highest risk for this church is considered to be fire. It was suggested that the finance department reassess the numbers to determine if we have the required amounts fully funded.
9. Discussion:
  - a. Deferred "Create reserve accounts spreadsheet for details that include purpose, goals, restrictions" to next month's discussion.

A motion to adjourn the April Finance Committee meeting was made at 6:40pm. Mr. Arend closed in prayer.

### **Outreach Committee Minutes:**

Monday, June 9th

- I. Devotional and Dinner *Rosy Pereira*  
 Matthew 10:42 God sees the little things; there's no such thing as small act or gesture. As we serve with open hands, God fills the gaps.

### II. Committee Reports: Funding Recommendations and Meeting Debriefs

Global

*Sharon Roark*

- Faith Ministry, \$30,000
- Far East Broadcasting Company, \$45,000
- Nueva Vida, \$30,000
- The Outreach Foundation, \$7,000
- Pars Theological Center, \$20,000
- Living Water International—receive Palm Sunday offering

*Sharon moved to accept the committee's funding recommendation as presented, Lisa seconded. The committee approved unanimously.*

Children Families and Housing

*Kim Oswald*

- Buckner Child and Family Services, \$15,000 (Designation: Family Hope Center Northside)
- Family Point Resources, \$30,000

- Galveston Urban Ministries, \$10,000
- Mission Centers of Houston, \$30,000
- Outreach Center of West Houston, \$10,000
- Small Steps Nurturing Center, \$20,000

*Kim moved to accept the committee's funding recommendation as presented, Marc seconded. The committee approved unanimously.*

#### Discipleship and Education

*Lisa McChristian*

- None this month

#### Health and Special Needs

*Marc Laney*

- Bo's Place, \$15,000
- His Grace Foundation, \$18,000
- Hope and Healing Institute, \$15,000

*Marc moved to accept the committee's funding recommendation as presented, Mike seconded. The committee approved unanimously.*

#### Spring Branch and Hunger

*Mike Pelton*

- East Spring Branch Food Pantry, \$10,000
- IM Houston – formerly Interfaith Ministries for Greater Houston, \$35,000 (Designation: Meals on Wheels and Animeals Programs)
- RaiseUp Families, \$25,000 (Designation: HandUp and LevelUp programs)

*Mike moved to accept the committee's funding recommendation as presented, Sharon seconded. The committee approved unanimously.*

### III. Staff reports

#### A. Local

*Julie LaRue*

- 3,972 items donated to Fuente Food Drive!
- Sent funding applications to three new potential partners: Healthcare for the Homeless, Houston Legal Aid and The Restoration Team
- Mission Xtreme is making sandwiches for Kids Meals this week
- Summer Celebration is doing a donation drive for Mission of Yahweh for their two new buildings
- MDPC honored as church partner of the year at MOY Luncheon

#### B. Global

*Kelsi McCormack*

- Kelsi and 5 others from MDPC recently returned from the Budapest trip to visit YWHAM Budapest and the Johnson Family. The group grew from participating in the street outreach activities.
- Labor Day trip to visit Michah Project in Honduras—spots still available.
- Uganda trip for youth will be at the end of July visiting Lulwanda Children's Home. Summer Cel students will be fundraising to buy bibles that the youth can deliver.

#### C. Special Initiatives

*Amy Delgado*

- MDPC has put together into a church planting committee led by Dan Aikins to start exploring that again. This is something ECO is encouraging partners to do, and we are in the early stages.
- MDPC has been in talks with a Chinese missionary with The Outreach Foundation who is working to plant a Mandarin-language church in Katy. Alf met En "Chris" Wong this man on his mission trip to China.
- Amy and Julie met with Angela Burgess with Broad Oaks Consulting who offered a Lunch and Learn to help outreach partners with a fundraising plan. Committee discussed ways to support outreach partners and give them resources that can help them fundraise. Perhaps a touch point in the spring?

**Next meeting:**

No meeting in July

Monday, August 11, 2025, with Dinner and Devo by Lisa McChristian

**Strategic Initiatives Committee Minutes:**

June 12, 2025

Present: Amy Delgado, Julie LaRue, Kelsi McCormack, Dan Aikins

Absent: Tom Braschayko

Meeting was called to order. Motion was presented.

As part of the motion discussion, the team reviewed the proposal (Attachment 1), which Dan prepared through conversation and feedback with Alf and Amy. In discussion, the proposal was updated (reflected in the attachment) to clarify that the support for Moving and Resettling Expenses is a reimbursement from MDPC in order to better align with The Outreach Foundation's policies. Discussion also included The Outreach Foundation's excitement for this partnership, Bin's family's likely need for support and community after moving to Houston, Bin's initial schedule and approach to ministry, and God's seeming orchestration of this partnership with Bin through The Outreach Foundation.

Motion passed with unanimous support.

Meeting adjourned.

**Attachment 1 - Proposal: Mandarin Specialist Church Planter Support – Bin Wang**

**Motion:**

To approve a two-year commitment of support as outlined below for The Outreach Foundation China Specialist, Bin Wang, for the purpose of new church development for Mandarin speakers in the Houston area with funds from Outreach Ministry's balancing budget:

**Year 1 Support**

Up to \$10,000 – Reimbursement for Moving and Resettling Expenses\*

\$40,000 – Living Expenses

\$10,000 – Medical Insurance

**Year 2 Support**

\$40,000 – Living Expenses

\$10,000 – Medical Insurance

**Year 2 Total:** \$50,000

**Year 1 Total:** \$50,000 + Up to \$10,000 Reimbursement

\*Reimbursement expenses will be submitted to MDPC



### Explanation:

MDPC has identified Bin Wang as a potential church planter to the Chinese diaspora in the Houston area. Bin is an ordained pastor of the official church in China (CCC/TSPM) and served in China until 2020 until he and his family moved to the United States for seminary studies. In 2023, they were called to serve with The Outreach Foundation (TOF) as a liaison between TOF, the church in China, and US congregations. Bin and his family live in Charlotte, NC.

Pastor Alf met Bin while traveling to China on a TOF vision trip. After spending nearly two weeks with Bin, Pastor Alf was impressed with Bin's Christian character, pastoral leadership, intercultural savvy, and passion for lost people to hear the Gospel and obey. As they shared about their ministries, Pastor Alf explained MDPC's multicultural congregations. The idea piqued Bin's interest. After the trip, Bin asked Alf to consider a partnership with MDPC for a Chinese church or congregation through MDPC.

Simultaneously, Alf, Amy, and Dan began a conversation about MDPC's future in church planting and developed plans for the Church Planting Task Force (Task Force). The Task Force is early in its work and is not ready to shape a vision for partnering with Bin. Even so, Alf, Amy, and Dan discern that God is leading us to partner with Bin through TOF for church planting. The Task Force agrees but is also not ready to lead the partnership.

Outreach Ministry's Strategic Initiatives Committee (Committee) is the appropriate team to take initial ownership of the partnership and funding. The Strategic Initiatives Committee will invite Bin to apply as a local Mandarin-speaking specialist and fund the partnership through the Outreach Ministries balancing budget. Later, the Committee and Task Force may agree to transfer leadership to the Task Force.

In partnership with Bin through TOF, MDPC will:

- Fund Bin's work through OF as a missionary church planter in the Houston area,
- Provide pastoral and relational support to Bin and his family,
- Collaborate with Bin's vision and plan for an ECO church plant in the Houston area,
- Develop outcome metrics with Bin and assess progress,
- Provide ministry support to Bin's ministry when appropriate and available, and
- Remain flexible regarding God's leading and blessing on the above-outlined plan.

In partnership with MDPC through TOF, Bin will:

- Engage the ECO church planting assessment and coaching process within one month of moving to Houston,
- Develop an initial church planting plan with the help of ECO,
- Prayerfully discern the locations around the Houston area to focus his ministry efforts,
- Develop outcome metrics with MDPC to assess progress,
- Work toward developing an independent church plant for Mandarin-speaking people, and
- Remain flexible regarding God's leading and blessing on the above-outlined plan.