



## SESSION DOCUMENTS

Mon, Sept 22, 2025

# Memorial Drive Presbyterian Church

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

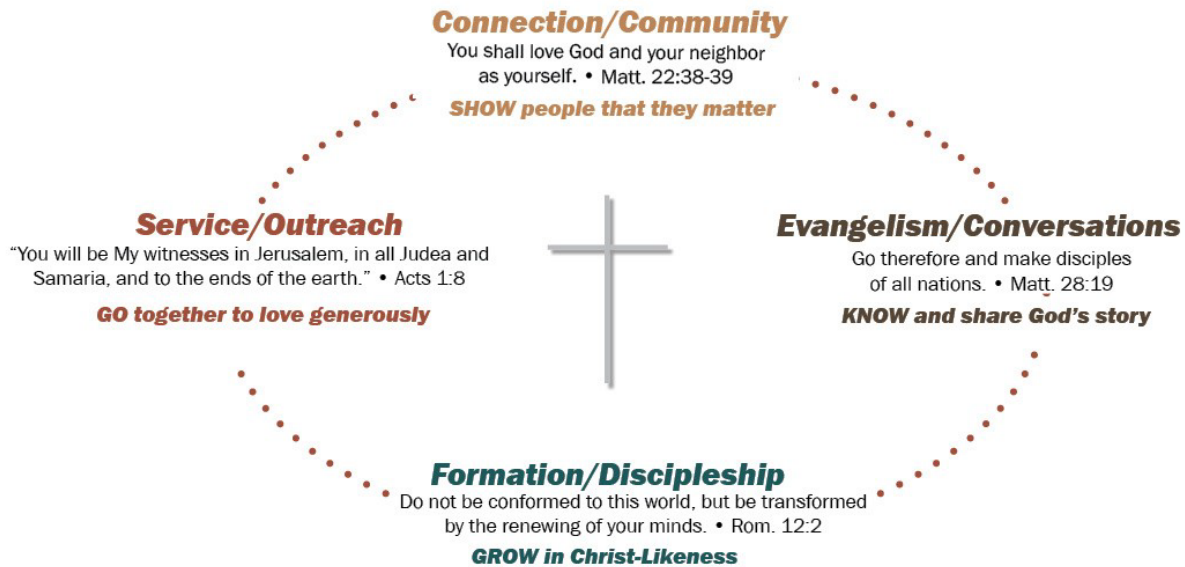
## Session Meeting Agenda

September 22, 2025



### Strategic Goals

2023-2028



1. **Call to Order and Opening Prayer** (Alf Halvorson)
2. **Establishment of Quorum** (Kelly Handel)
3. **Vision Framing and The Healthy Leader** (Alf Halvorson)
4. **Clerk's Report** (Kelly Handel and Joe Stockdale)
  - Call for Commissioners -ECO National Gathering – February 2026
  - Nominating Committee Update
5. **Presbytery Report** (Dan Aikins and Clay Brown)
6. **Treasurer's Report** (Chris Arend)
7. **Ministry Update: Worship and Music** (Steffanie West)
8. **Generosity Committee Update** (Jeannie Able)
9. **Omnibus Motion**
  - a. **Motion** to approve the minutes of August 25, 2025, Session Meeting.

b. **Reinstatement of Covenant Partnership:**

Please reinstate the following active members to Covenant Partnership:  
**English, Dan**

c. **Motion** to approve Outreach Partner Funding for September 2025 as follows:

**September 2025**

**Consent Agenda items:**

<b>Partner Funding Recommendations</b>		<b>Designated</b>	
Casa de Esperanze de los Ninos	\$15,000		CFH
Child Advocates	\$12,000		CFH
Houston Legal Aid	\$10,000		CFH
Houston Welcomes Refugees	\$7,500		CFH
Faithful Fathering	\$25,000		DE
Fuller Theological Seminary	\$20,000	Scholarships for The Antioch Ministry Experience Cohort	DE
The Gathering of Men	\$6,000		DE
The Get Together	\$7,500		DE
Home Encouragement	\$15,000		DE
WorkFaith	\$25,000		DE
Young Life	\$16,500	Greater Houston - Next Gen Leaders	DE
Young Life	\$16,500	Greater Houston - Campership	DE
Young Life	\$17,000	West Houston YL	DE
Casa El Buen Samaritano	\$35,500		HSN
Easter Seals of Greater Houston	\$20,000	Adult Disability Program	HSN
ECHOS	\$25,000		HSN
Houston Area Parkinson's Soccity	\$15,000		HSN
Magnificat Houses, Inc.	\$22,500		HSN
The Rose	\$20,000		HSN
Cornerstone Family Ministries	\$38,000		SBH
LIFE Houston	\$20,000	Formula Inventory	SBH
Santa Maria Hostel	\$20,000		SBH
Urban Outreach	\$40,000		SBH
The Micah Project	\$60,000		Global
The Antioch Partners	\$5,500	Sajadi Family	Global
The Antioch Partners	\$5,500	House Family	Global
<b>Totaling:</b>	<b>\$520,000</b>		
<b>Year To Date:</b>	<b>\$2,339,900</b>		

## 10. 2025 Calendar Reminders

September 28	Alf Halvorson Preaching  Sermon Series: The Gospel through Ruth  <b>Outreach Sunday</b>
October 5	Alf Halvorson Preaching  Sermon Series: Beautifully Broken  <b>World Communion Sunday</b>
October 12	Alf Halvorson Preaching  Sermon Series: Beautifully Broken  <b>Baptisms</b>
October 19	Alf Halvorson Preaching  Sermon Series: Beautifully Broken
October 26	Alf Halvorson Preaching  Sermon Series: Beautifully Broken  <b>Rolling Congregational Meeting</b>
October 27	Session Meeting   6:30 pm in Chapel
November 9	Alf Halvorson Preaching  Sermon Series: Beautifully Broken  <b>Third Grade Bibles</b>
November 16	Alf Halvorson Preaching  Sermon Series: Beautifully Broken  <b>Confirmation Sunday  Baptisms</b>
November 16	Special Meeting of the Session – Confirmation Sunday
November 23	Alf Halvorson Preaching Sermon Series: Beautifully Broken
November 30	Alf Halvorson Preaching  <b>1<sup>st</sup> Sunday in Advent</b>

## Remaining 2025 Session Meeting & Important Dates

October 27  
November- Sunday Morning, November 16<sup>th</sup>- Confirmand Review  
December 15

### 2026 Important Dates

January 11 New Officer Installation  
January 23-24 Staff and Officer Retreat  
February 2-5 ECO National Gathering- Atlanta, GA

## 11. Announcements and Additional Business

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

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

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

Name	Aug 2025	July 2025	Month to Month Difference	Aug 2024
<b>ASSETS</b>				
Unrestricted Cash & Cash Equivalents	905,081.94	1,355,487.68	(450,405.74)	2,400,296.42
Current Investments (Unrestricted)	1,515,080.90	1,522,381.73	(7,300.83)	1,807,711.93
<b>Total Unrestricted Cash &amp; Cash Equivalents</b>	<b>2,420,162.84</b>	<b>2,877,869.41</b>	<b>(457,706.57)</b>	<b>4,208,008.35</b>
Current Investments (Restricted)	4,564,955.21	4,564,955.21	-	2,386,722.83
Legacy Restricted Cash & Equivalents	4,905,982.46	4,905,982.46	-	5,885,803.25
<b>Total Restricted Cash &amp; Equivalents</b>	<b>9,470,937.67</b>	<b>9,470,937.67</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>8,272,526.08</b>
Prepaid Expense, Deposits, Inventory	438,256.58	468,662.79	(30,406.21)	573,413.60
Miscellaneous Receivables	8,217.99	17,440.59	(9,222.60)	22,605.71
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>21,374,847.52</b>	<b>21,872,182.90</b>	<b>(497,335.38)</b>	<b>21,119,941.98</b>
<b>LIABILITIES</b>				
Accounts Payable	180,130.41	276,662.63	(96,532.22)	580,220.91
Other Payables	93,033.34	101,356.65	(8,323.31)	83,932.38
Prepaid Tuition and Fees	42,110.00	123,572.00	(81,462.00)	43,730.00
Custodial Accounts	47,509.51	47,488.62	20.89	33,051.22
Note Payable-PNC /PPP	-	-	-	-
<b>TOTAL LIABILITIES</b>	<b>362,783.26</b>	<b>549,079.90</b>	<b>(186,296.64)</b>	<b>740,934.51</b>
<b>NET ASSETS</b>				
Unrestricted Net Assets	10,144,723.60	10,549,353.79	(404,630.19)	11,848,428.45
Temp. Restricted Net Assets	5,896,648.17	5,799,374.97	97,273.20	2,972,835.38
Perm. Restricted Net Assets	433,857.59	433,857.59	-	433,857.59
Restricted Legacy Net Assets	4,536,834.90	4,540,516.65	(3,681.75)	5,123,886.05
<b>TOTAL NET ASSETS</b>	<b>21,012,064.26</b>	<b>21,323,103.00</b>	<b>(311,038.74)</b>	<b>20,379,007.47</b>
<b>TOTAL LIABILITIES &amp; NET ASSETS</b>	<b>21,374,847.52</b>	<b>21,872,182.90</b>	<b>(497,335.38)</b>	<b>21,119,941.98</b>

Budgeted Financial Statement for Period 8 - August  
SUMMARY INCOME & EXPENSE - 2025  
Company#: 1 Name: Memorial Drive Presbyterian Church  
Fiscal Year Beginning 1/1/2025

Description	Aug Act	2025 YTD Act	2025 YTD Bud	Over (Under) Budget	% Variance YTD	Prior YTD 2024	2025 Budget Full Year
OPERATING INCOME							
Contributions	\$ 903,900	\$ 7,707,037	\$ 8,059,099	\$ (352,062)	(4.37)	\$ 8,060,122	\$ 14,203,392
Bank/Gateway/Credit Card Fees	\$ (2,980)	\$ (35,587)	\$ -	\$ (35,587)	-	\$ (36,058)	\$ -
Ministry Events Revenue	\$ 256,163	\$ 2,321,475	\$ 2,326,310	\$ (4,835)	(0.21)	\$ 2,042,540	\$ 3,388,112
Other Operating Income	\$ (6,999)	\$ 163,989	\$ 66,667	\$ 97,322	145.98	\$ 242,714	\$ 100,000
TOTAL OPERATING INCOME	1,150,084	10,156,914	10,452,076	(295,162)	(2.82)	10,309,317	17,691,504
Ministry Operating Expense							
Pastoral Ministry							
Caring Ministry	\$ 33,925	\$ 272,644	\$ 303,364	\$ (30,720)	10.13	\$ 275,083	\$ 456,835
Fuente	\$ 15,862	\$ 115,402	\$ 105,600	\$ 9,802	(9.28)	\$ 114,805	\$ 160,781
Children's Ministry	\$ 90,135	\$ 618,309	\$ 612,306	\$ 6,003	(0.98)	\$ 578,606	\$ 897,412
Youth Ministry	\$ 56,751	\$ 416,331	\$ 461,321	\$ (44,991)	9.75	\$ 363,373	\$ 702,140
Relationships	\$ 27,422	\$ 237,732	\$ 256,426	\$ (18,694)	7.29	\$ 238,852	\$ 388,560
Sports and REACH Programs	\$ 12,589	\$ 339,126	\$ 330,913	\$ 8,213	(2.48)	\$ 318,432	\$ 484,570
Outreach (Admin)	\$ 55,880	\$ 450,754	\$ 442,438	\$ 8,316	(1.88)	\$ 429,819	\$ 661,504
Adult Discipleship	\$ 38,773	\$ 286,112	\$ 281,704	\$ 4,408	(1.56)	\$ 271,952	\$ 422,584
Young Adult	\$ 20,668	\$ 161,942	\$ 137,666	\$ 24,276	(17.63)	\$ 98,646	\$ 207,510
Worship	\$ 45,896	\$ 317,104	\$ 322,736	\$ (5,632)	1.74	\$ 326,606	\$ 482,268
Traditional Music	\$ 29,991	\$ 286,267	\$ 290,662	\$ (4,395)	1.51	\$ 287,924	\$ 450,868
Contemporary Music	\$ 26,471	\$ 225,183	\$ 223,812	\$ 1,371	(0.61)	\$ 221,900	\$ 332,968
Brazilian Ministry	\$ 16,533	\$ 115,270	\$ 133,848	\$ (18,578)	13.88	\$ 124,560	\$ 200,768
Total Pastoral Ministry	\$ 470,896	\$ 3,842,177	\$ 3,902,797	\$ (60,620)	1.55	\$ 3,650,559	\$ 5,848,767
Support Ministry							
Communications & Media	\$ 80,086	\$ 631,189	\$ 583,044	\$ 48,145	(8.26)	\$ 621,101	\$ 872,794
Administration	\$ 59,085	\$ 595,409	\$ 628,424	\$ (33,015)	5.25	\$ 592,492	\$ 929,040
Food Service	\$ 15,088	\$ 116,301	\$ 106,667	\$ 9,635	(9.03)	\$ 105,134	\$ 160,000
Facilities & Technology	\$ 168,358	\$ 1,696,099	\$ 1,725,881	\$ (29,782)	1.73	\$ 1,927,505	\$ 2,586,448
The Little School	\$ 106,456	\$ 870,293	\$ 884,851	\$ (14,558)	1.65	\$ 757,806	\$ 1,324,610
The Yellow School	\$ 79,103	\$ 563,308	\$ 514,876	\$ 48,432	(9.41)	\$ 522,683	\$ 768,714
Total Support Ministry	\$ 508,177	\$ 4,472,600	\$ 4,443,743	\$ 28,857	(0.65)	\$ 4,526,721	\$ 6,641,606
Anticipated Budget Reduction	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	#DIV/0!	\$ -	\$ -
Total Ministry Operating Expense	\$ 979,074	\$ 8,314,777	\$ 8,346,540	\$ (31,763)	0.38%	\$ 8,177,280	\$ 12,490,373
Outreach Expense							
Outreach - Ministry Sponsored	\$ 128,139	\$ 943,850	\$ 1,090,791	\$ (146,940.67)	13.47	\$ 780,985	\$ 1,554,757
Outreach - Ministry Partners	\$ 383,127	\$ 1,891,020	\$ 1,486,000	\$ 405,019.97	(27.26)	\$ 1,678,381	\$ 2,996,373
Total Outreach Expense	\$ 511,266	\$ 2,834,870	\$ 2,576,791	\$ 258,079.30	(10.02)	\$ 2,459,366	\$ 4,551,130
Other Operating Expense							
Insurance & Legal	\$ 58,571	\$ 429,795	\$ 400,000	\$ 29,795	(7.45)	\$ 368,254	\$ 600,000
Capital Additions/Reserve	\$ 4,167	\$ 33,333	\$ 33,333	\$ (0)	0.00	\$ 33,333	\$ 50,000
Total Other Operating Expense	\$ 62,737	\$ 463,129	\$ 433,333	\$ 29,795	(6.88)	\$ 401,587	\$ 650,000
TOTAL OPERATING EXPENSES	\$ 1,553,078	\$ 11,612,776	\$ 11,356,664	\$ 256,112	-2.26%	\$ 11,038,233	\$ 17,691,504
Other Income(Loss)							
Total Other Income(Loss)	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	-	\$ -	\$ -
NET INCOME (LOSS)	\$ (402,993)	\$ (1,455,862)	\$ (904,588)	\$ (551,274)	60.94%	\$ (728,916)	\$ 1
Restr & Enrichment Inc/(Exp)	\$ 91,954	\$ 410,609	\$ -	\$ 410,609	-	\$ (48,134)	\$ -

# **Outreach Ministries Funding Recommendations September 2025**

## **CFH**

### **Casa de Esperanza**

2024 Funding: \$15,592 (\$15,000 and \$592 MM)

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

Casa de Esperanza de los Ninos strives to break the cycle of child abuse and neglect for at-risk infants, children and their families by providing comprehensive residential and family support programs that transform people and communities.

<https://casahope.org>

### **Child Advocates**

2024 Funding: \$10,000

#### **2025 Funding Recommendation: \$12,000**

Child Advocates mobilizes court appointed volunteers to break the vicious cycle of child abuse. They speak up for abused children who are lost in the system and guide them into safe environments where they can thrive.

<https://www.childadvocates.org>

### **Houston Legal Aid Center**

2024 Funding: N/A (New in 2025)

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

Houston Legal Aid Center (HLAC) exists to provide redeeming justice for the poor, vulnerable, and victimized. Founded over a decade ago, HLAC was built on the belief that legal advocacy can be a form of ministry—restoring dignity, stability, and hope to those facing legal barriers they cannot navigate alone. HLAC works to bridge that gap with excellence, compassion, and intentional outreach.

<https://www.houstonlegalaid.org>

### **Houston Welcomes Refugees**

2024 Funding: \$7,500

#### **2025 Funding Recommendation: \$7,500**

Houston Welcomes Refugees (HWR) mobilizes our city to welcome refugees with compassion, hope, and honor as they resettle and start a new life in Houston. By providing move-in teams and welcome kits, HWR fosters hope amidst crisis and offers friendship for refugees coming to Houston.

<https://houstonwelcomesrefugees.com>

# **Outreach Ministries Funding Recommendations September 2025**

## **DE**

### **Faithful Fathering**

2024 Funding: \$25,000

**2025 Funding Recommendation: \$25,000** (Funds are not designated)

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

### **Work Faith**

2024 Funding: \$25,000

**2025 Funding Recommendation: \$25,000** (Funds are not designated)

WorkFaith provides faith-based training and coaching for anyone who desires long-term employment. Their Christ-centered values, paired with a highly-structured program, help students increase their value and the confidence necessary for a successful transition back into the workforce.

### **Fuller Theological Seminary**

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

**2025 Funding Recommendations: \$20,000** (Funds will be used as scholarships for The Antioch Ministry Experience Cohort, which offers a Master of Arts in Theology and Ministry (MATM) degree and the Master of Divinity degree in a hybrid format.

Fuller's Houston campus was founded to bring the rich programs of Fuller Theological Seminary to Texas. Scholarships to seminarians help ensure these future leaders in the Body of Christ may complete their seminary education without the burden of significant debt.

### **Young Life**

2024 Funding: \$50,000

**2025 Funding Recommendations: \$50,000** (Funds are designated as follows: \$33,000 for Greater Houston Region, \$16,500 for Next Gen Leaders, \$16,500 for Campership and \$17,000 for West Houston Young Life)

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

### **The Get Together**

2024 Funding: \$7,500 (\$4,000 O&A)

**2025 Funding Recommendations: \$7,500** (Funds are not designated)

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## **Outreach Ministries Funding Recommendations September 2025**

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

### **The Gathering of Men**

2024 Funding: \$6,000

**2025 Funding Recommendations: \$6,000** (Funds are not designated)

The Gathering of Men brings disciples to maturity in Jesus Christ through outreach and service. Formats for gathering include small groups and large outreach breakfasts.

### **Home Encouragement**

2024 Funding: \$18,000 (\$5,000 O&A)

**2025 Funding Recommendations: \$15,000** (Funds are not designated)

Home Encouragement strengthens marriages and encourages strong families in the Greater Houston area. They offer dinner dates for married couples, premarital training classes, as well as relationship coaching, marriage retreats, and other enrichment programs.

## **HSN**

### **Casa El Buen Samaritano**

2024 Funding: \$40,000 (Plus Mission Market: \$446)

**2025 Funding Recommendation: \$35,500**

Casa El Buen Samaritano shares the love of Jesus Christ while providing whole-person (body, soul, and spirit) healthcare to low-income and uninsured families in more than 110 zip codes in Houston and surrounding areas. Volunteer nurses, doctors and dentists treat patients for a number of general health issues. [www.casaelbuen.org](http://www.casaelbuen.org)

### **Easter Seals of Greater Houston**

2024 Funding: \$25,000

**2025 Funding Recommendation: \$20,000; *Restricted – Adult Disability Program***

Adult Programs of Easter Seals Houston offer recreational opportunities to promote physical, mental and spiritual health to adults with disabilities through bi-weekly meetings, bowling, fields trips, education, self advocacy, skills training and touch based technology training. These programs offer many clients their only opportunity for socializing, and provides respite for the adult participants' caregivers. One group meets at MDPC every Monday. [www.eastersealshouston.org](http://www.eastersealshouston.org)

## **ECHOS**

2024 Funding: \$25,000 (plus \$10,500 Over & Above)

**2025 Funding Recommendation: \$25,000**

Epiphany Community Health Outreach Services (ECHOS) connects people in need with health, social and educational resources that improve lives. Collaborating with over 30 organizations, ECHOS offers

## **Outreach Ministries Funding Recommendations September 2025**

benefits application assistance and education for Medicaid, CHIP, Harris Health System, and SNAP benefits; health screenings; food from a food pantry; and more for families in Houston.

[www.echos-houston.org](http://www.echos-houston.org)

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

2024 Funding: \$10,000 (plus \$10,000 Over & Above)

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

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

### **Magnificat Houses, Inc.**

2024 Funding: \$22,500 (plus \$6,000 Over & Above)

#### **2025 Funding Recommendation: \$22,500**

Magnificat House is a safe and welcoming faith-based community offering alternatives to life on the streets for men and women in Houston. They have 15 neighborhood homes, an emergency shelter for women, a soup kitchen, vocational training, and a Clubhouse day program for those with a mental health diagnosis. [www.mhihouston.org](http://www.mhihouston.org)

### **The Rose**

2024 Funding: \$20,000

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

The Rose saves lives through quality breast health services, advocacy and access to care for all, regardless of a patient's ability to pay. The Rose offers same-day diagnosis, on-site physicians dedicated to breast health care, advanced digital technology, and collaboration with the best medical organizations in Texas. [www.therose.org](http://www.therose.org)

### **SBH**

### **Cornerstone Family Ministries**

2024 Funding: \$35,000 (plus \$10,000 Over & Above)

#### **2025 Funding Recommendation: \$38,000 (Designation: None)**

Cornerstone Family Ministries is a faith-based organization, located in Spring Branch, that empowers at-risk students and their families to discover their God given purpose and calling. Programming encompasses ministry, education and social entrepreneurship.

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

### **LIFE Houston**

2024 Funding: \$15,000 (plus \$5,000 Over & Above plus \$991 Mission Market)

#### **2025 Funding Recommendation: \$20,000 (Designation: Formula Inventory)**

Local Infant Formula for Emergencies (LIFE Houston) operates Houston's only food bank for babies. Their Food for Babies program gives emergency infant formula to families with babies up to 1

## **Outreach Ministries Funding Recommendations September 2025**

year of age, and fills the gap left with federal programming, to ensure that cost is not a barrier for families with limited income.

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

### **Santa Maria Hostel**

2024 Funding: \$15,000 (plus \$12,500 Over & Above)

#### **2025 Funding Recommendation: \$20,000 (Designation: None)**

Santa Maria Hostel is one of Texas' largest multi-site residential and outpatient substance use disorder treatment centers for women, and one of a very few to offer a full continuum of services for women who are pregnant or parenting. By providing a safe, home environment, they allow mothers to stay with their young children while receiving care and treatment. Santa Maria Hostel partners with more than 130 community-based organizations to provide a full spectrum of care and support to women in recovery.

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

### **Urban Outreach**

2024 Funding: \$40,000

#### **2025 Funding Recommendation: \$40,000 (Designation: None)**

Urban Outreach is a Christian apartment ministry with onsite locations at apartments in Spring Branch, Aldine, Alief, Gulfton, Eastside, and Northside neighborhoods. They offer programs that address spiritual, physical, and social needs to help strengthen and preserve inner-city families. Offerings include the Christian Summer Camping Program, Character Development in Schools Program and area wide Summer Soccer Camps.

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

## **Global Ministries**

### **The Micah Project**

2024 Funding: \$60,000

#### **2025 Funding Recommendation: \$60,000**

The Micah Project ministers to young men and boys who have spent anguished childhoods in impoverished homes or on the streets of Tegucigalpa. The "Micah boys" are provided a loving home and learn to become Christian leaders through discipleship, education, and service to others. The Micah Project supports these young men as they learn to "act justly, love mercy, and walk humbly with our God." -Micah 6:8

**Outreach Ministries  
Funding Recommendations  
September 2025**

**Global Missionaries**

**Missionary Partner: Rev. M and Family**

Funding made out to: The Antioch Partners, Designated: Rev. M and Family

2024 Funding: N/A (new in 2025)

**2025 Funding Recommendation: \$5,500**

Rev. M, the first Iranian ordained pastor in ECO, lives in Germany and serves as director of the Persian Ministry at Quest Academy. He equips and mentors Persian-speaking believers in Europe and the Middle East through theological training, discipleship, and leadership development. In partnership with churches and mission organizations, he supports house churches and encourages believers to grow in faith and ministry. Pray for Rev. M, his wife, and their two sons as they raise up a new generation of faithful leaders.

**Missionary Partner: Missionary Family in SE Asia**

Funding made out to: The Antioch Partners, Designated: Family in SE Asia

2024 Funding: N/A (new in 2025)

**2025 Funding Recommendation: \$5,500**

A and S serve in SE Asia, advancing the gospel in a region experiencing political instability and conflict. Their work includes equipping leaders through seminary teaching, developing children's ministry curriculum, and providing discipleship and relief support to local communities. They also partner with area churches to strengthen outreach efforts among least-reached groups, including youth and women's ministries. Pray for A, S, and their three children as they faithfully share the hope of Christ in a difficult context.

MINUTES OF THE STATED MEETING OF THE SESSION  
Memorial Drive Presbyterian Church  
August 25, 2025

**Elders Present:** Jeannie Able, Chris Arend, Amanda Austin, Sandy Ballard, Carla Bradford, Rick Chapman, Stephanie Espinoza, Jennifer Fernelius, Ginny French, Kelly Handel, Alex Knoop, Michael Kringel, Stefano Lugo-Doval, Marc Laney, Bob Larson, Madison Limbacher, Hector Longoria, Michael McCormack, Rafael Moreira, Kim Oswald, Mike Pelton, Nikki Pielop, Peggy Samuels, David Shelfer, Joe Stockdale, Andre Verona, Kyle Wienert

**Elders Excused:** Ellen Davidson, Lisa McChristian, Rosy Pereira, Nathan Stedham, Hunter Smith, Ryan Taylor

**Elders Absent:** Tarryn Lankford, Christina Morse, Sharon Roark Leslie Sloan, Mat Yelvington

**Pastors Present:** Dan Aikins, Clay Brown, Almir Dias, Alf Halvorson, Brett Hurst, Rachel Poysky

**Pastors Excused:** Beth Case, Guillermo Yela

**Staff Present:** Laura Benes, Carter Bliss, Amy Delgado, Beverly Fluke, Sally Henein, Riley McDaniel, Jennifer Vajdos, Marcus Vajdos, Steffanie West

**Call to Order:** Pastor Alf Halvorson called the meeting of the Session of Memorial Drive Presbyterian Church to order at 6:31pm in the Chapel. He asked us to note the circle at the top of our docket which is a visual representation of our four pillars. He walked us through these which are based on strategic goals 2023-2028. ***Connection/Community-*** show that people matter. We think that especially before people can believe, often they have to know there is trust there and a place for them that they are seen and can find a profound, deep and real fellowship. ***Formation/ Discipleship*** Grow in Christ's likeness. We want people that commit to Christ to then continue to grow emotionally, relationally, spiritually...to be transformed, conformed, reformed *by the renewing of your minds.* ***Service/ Outreach-***Go Together to Live Generously. A part of witness is sharing Christ verbally; part of the witness is service. There are a variety of ways to serve dependent on the person and particular situation. ***Evangelism/Conversations.*** Know and share God's story. With this framing, everything on our agenda tonight should be looked at through these filters and the two scriptures of great commandment to love God your neighbor as yourself and The Great Commission in Matt 28 ..go and make disciples. Alf opened us in prayer.

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

**Vision Framing (Alf Halvorson)**

We have been doing master planning for the last twelve months. Some feedback on the congregational town hall presentations has been that some felt it clinical and perhaps we are just doing this because it's been 25 yrs- What about the theology, the Bible, our call as disciples??? Should we build something based on connection, evangelism, formation, and outreach? Probably in January of 2026, we will do some vision casting for the new year. Alf shared some bad news first before the good news! The Great Commission says go and make disciples- - but it's been hard for the last 5-20 years due to the secularization of society. Some churches are languishing, some have closed. Alan Roxburgh wrote a book about this in 2015, but this has generally been the thinking for the last 20 years...when you graduate seminary, you are entering the mission field -the church is in trouble, we are going against the wind- rowing against the current- it's going to be hard. Roxburgh lifts some of the challenges: If you were born in the years 1925-1945, there is a 60% chance you are in church today, if born in 1946-1964 (Boomers) , there is a 40% chance, if born in 1965-1983 (GenX) , there is a 20% chance- and if born after 1984 (Millennials and Gen Z) , there is less than a 10% chance you are still in church. Do you see the trend, do you see the not good news, the uphill battle? **Why would we do a Master Plan when these are the statistics?** We are an outlier church- growing when others are declining and **there are broader indications that might give us hope. A recent study, The Quiet Revival Report, interviewed 13K people in England and in Wales- it quantified some info that we are seeing also anecdotally in the US that is encouraging:** Gen Z church attendance has tripled in the last 6 years in England and Wales- we have seen an increase from 2018 to

2024 in males from 4% to 21% and females 3% to 12%. Overall, a percentage increase from 8 to 12% in adult attendance. Anecdotally in US, Tim Keller -started 30 years ago Redeemer Pres in Manhattan- at that time 1 in 100 in an office building was attending church and called themselves a Christian. When he wrapped up his ministry, 10 of 100 attending church. Before 2018 in England and Wales, it was mostly grandmothers and moms taking families to church- now it's young males leading charge in this renovation. Gen Z and millennials returning to church and asking questions about ultimate value; in the UK Bible reading has doubled from 2018 to 2024; Bible sales in the US have grown from 9.7m to 14m; some impact players culturally are now going to church- this is a change!; Gen Z buying the most Bibles and having the most chats online about what type to buy.

Why the return? In the UK, which is 10-15 yrs ahead of us in secularization, that culture is not satisfying hunger and not answering the profound questions, providing hope, and the meaning and purpose we are looking for in life. There is a phrase, especially in worship, "Ancient Future"- some want old hymns that have stood the test of time- something lasting- to be put to a new tune, beat, etc. Elite institutions are now less about studies and more about political fights and takeover of admin buildings – we are seeing a strong pushback in those going to schools –

What is solid, positive, and where can community happen?

Carrie Neuhoff –the number one use of generative AI was Ideation- now the number one use of Chat GBT is therapy or companionship. Studies find that if you are connected to a church, generally you have more close friendships and relationships - if not, people are more isolated and lonelier and looking to a bot for human relationships. Seeing an increase in male churchgoers.

Trends suggest we have leveled out and up ticking- Carrie Neuhoff's podcast at the beginning of the year – we are in revival but a retreat but by mid-year- **"the revival is winning in America and Europe"**-instead of having the wind at us, we are beginning to feel some wind at our back – we have a little current with us!

*For 5-10 minutes in groups of 3-5, think about the area in which you are serving and ponder as leaders how you sense we are doing:*

*Are we ready for people to come back? Do we have staff in place to answer questions they have? Are we ready to start new small groups? Do we have answers to questions on evangelism? Do we know the Gospel ourselves and do we know how to share it? Can we help disciple – help others be transformed by Christ? Outreach- young people in particular want to serve...MDPC can connect people immediately in this way, so we are ahead of the game perhaps in this area?*

***Looking into the rest of 2025 and into 2026 as we contemplate a master plan, when you hear these statistics, are we encouraged by the possibilities of renovating or adding to our physical plant, and does it help us meet needs when people are coming or will come?***

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

- Kelly and Joe gave us an update on P&O Review - it's going very slow, but this is due to the updating of language throughout and an emphasis on streamlining! – will let you look at it before we finalize, but don't be shocked by all the changes!
- Joe introduced our time for Officer Nominations via QR – online nominations close tonight!

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

Not a lot has changed since June, the last time we met. Chris presented the MDPC reports found in packet as well as slides. He expressed that we have a talented finance committee that looks at the details and ensures we don't get comfortable – they look at anomalies and have further conversations and ask thoughtful questions. Are we comfortable with revenues and where we are spending money as of this summer? The answer is yes.

#### **Master Planning Status Update:** (Alf Halvorson and Marcus Vajdos)

Marcus updated us that two other firms will be looking at master plan and an RFP has gone out with all the data that they need to get back to us in September, with interviews with various ministries by end of year. Early January our hope is to have a final report to the congregation. Alf gave clarity to the reasoning for the extra sets of eyes on and the donated funds for this.

#### **Omnibus Agenda:**

Alf introduced the Omnibus Motion below for August 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.

# 1. Omnibus Motion

- a. **Motion** to approve the minutes of the June 23, 2025, Session Meeting.
- b. **Motion** to approve the following baptisms performed in July and August 2025:

Name	Age	Parents	Member	Date
John Andrew Dash	Infant	Rachel Von Gonten and Timothy Dash	Mom-Yes Dad-No	7/20/2025 sprinkle
Hailey Claire Mann	Infant	Leslie and Garrett Mann	Mom-Yes Dad-No	7/20/2025 sprinkle
Graham Warren Nielsen	Infant	Claire Coggin and Regan Nielsen	Mom-Yes Dad-Yes	7/20/2025 sprinkle
Parker Jo Ziegenbein	Toddler	Madison and Travis Ziegenbein	Mom-No Dad-No	7/20/2025 sprinkle
Dylan Benson Beasley	Child	Jennifer Johnson and Robert “Ben” Beasley	Mom-Yes Dad-No	8/10/2025 sprinkle
Isabelle Louise Dobbins	Child	Christine Nowlan and James Robert “Rob” Dobbins	Mom-Yes Dad-No	8/10/2025 sprinkle
Frankie Lynn Saha	Infant	Bailey Aiko-Tsuru and Tanner Saha	Mom-Yes Dad-No	8/10/2025 sprinkle
Andy Walsh- Reaffirmation	Adult	n/a	Yes	8/10/2025 Reaffirmation

## c. Transfers and Dismissals:

Please transfer the following active members:

**Moak, Peyton** to Memorial Drive United Methodist Church, Houston, TX.

**Wolcott, Charles** to Good Shepherd Church, Cypress, TX.

## d. Reinstatement of Covenant Partnership:

Please reinstate the following active members to Covenant Partnership:

**O'Brien, Courtney (Jackson)**

**O'Keefe, Mairead**

## e. Motion to approve Outreach Partner Funding for August 2025 as follows:

### Outreach Ministry

**August 2025**

### Consent Agenda Items:

#### 1. Partner Funding Recommendations

#### Designated

Bridges to Life	\$10,000		DE
Prison Entrepreneurship Program	\$30,000	Transitional services for returning citizens	DE
Presbytery of New Covenant	\$35,000	Houston International Seafarers Ministry - Presbyterian Chaplain Support	DE
CarePartners	\$25,000		HSN
JoyRide Center	\$24,000		HSN

REACH Unlimited	\$25,000		HSN
Faith Ministry	\$20,000	Berea Bible Institute	Global
		Evangelical Theological Seminary in	
The Outreach Foundation	\$20,000	Cairo	Global
ICM	\$10,000	Church in India	Global
One For Israel	\$10,000	Outreach Ministry Expenses	Global
YWAM Budapest	\$25,000		Global
<b>Totaling:</b>	<b>\$234,000</b>		

## 2. Outreach Initiatives

## Designated

Alpha USA	\$25,000	Alpha USA
Steiger International	\$17,500	US Operations
		Personal support for Carolina & Jozef
Steiger International	\$2,500	Knapik
Street Grace	\$65,000	Street Grace Houston
		HCC Eagle Pantry & Backpack
Houston Food Bank	\$33,000	Buddies
<b>Totaling:</b>	<b>\$143,000</b>	

**Year To Date: \$1,819,900**

## 2025 Calendar Reminders

August 31	Alf Halvorson Preaching  Last of Summer Sermon Series  Labor Day BBQ
September 7	Alf Halvorson Preaching  Fall Sermon Series Launch: The Gospel through Ruth
September 14	Alf Halvorson Preaching  Sermon Series: The Gospel through Ruth
September 21	Alf Halvorson Preaching  Sermon Series: The Gospel through Ruth
September 22	Session Meeting   6:30 pm in Chapel

## Remaining 2025 Session Meeting & Important Dates

September 22  
October 27  
November- No Meeting  
December 15

September 19-20 ECO Presbytery of Texas Meeting, Amarillo, TX

## 2026 Important Dates

January 23-24 Staff and Officer Retreat  
February 2-5 ECO National Gathering- Atlanta, GA

## Announcements and Additional Business

Plug for Welcome Team- Chris Arend

Dan Aikins – historically ushers and greeters have fallen under Worship purview. Evangelism and Worship have been co-managing. It would be best to use giftedness and personnel time if welcome team moved to Evangelism freeing up worship to focus on worship! All volunteer team! Many of you get an email each week with a Signup Genius link for greeting before, briefly after, and ushering during the service. Hugely important role and we as leaders of the church are best suited to connect these visitors! Please respond when you receive that email from us!

Clay Brown noted ECO National Gathering at downtown Atlanta Marriott Marquis and that the date moved to early Feb. Clay urged us to strongly consider attending the Texas Presbytery meeting in Amarillo in September. He pastored in Amarillo for 5 years. He and Dan are attending on our behalf. Great speaker lineup on mission and



outreach. Joe Stockdale then reminded us of the requirement to serve at Presbytery or as a

Brett Hurst announced that Men's Life starts 9/9- the theme is ***Asking Good Questions***- in the gospels, 307 questions are asked by Jesus-Brett encouraged all men and those men in our spheres of influence to consider joining for this kickoff of 11-week program. He also reminded us of October 5<sup>th</sup>&6<sup>th</sup>- marriage retreat weekend in Galveston at Moody Gardens. They have been doing this for 20 years-second year at Moody Gardens- it's a noon to noon experience Sat to Sunday- beneficial for all stages of marriage- they hope to be encouragers and strengtheners of all marriage relationships

Steffanie West – in follow-up to importance of ushering and welcoming- in our policies, we state the duty to serve communion three times per year- we need you to serve communion! please sign up for October 5<sup>th</sup>, World Communion Sunday, and those dates after.

### **Adjournment**

A **Motion** to adjourn the August 2025 Session Meeting was made at 7:51 p.m. Rachel introduced our prayer time by pointing out that we have been talking recently about the Emotionally Healthy Leader- part of this is learning to pray and pray well- we do have to exercise our prayer muscle- she challenged us to think about what to do differently in our prayer lives and shared a practice with us of Praying through the Psalms for prompting. She led us in guided, prompted silent prayer.

Minutes respectfully submitted on behalf of Kelly Handel, Clerk.

by Jennifer Vajdos, Executive Ministries Coordinator. August 2025

## Combined Minutes of the Session Committees September 2025

### Caring Ministries Committee Minutes: Ministry Reports

#### Community Relations:

- The Community Relations Committee is extending the Hot Topics series this fall with a focus on Safety.
  - First up will be a presentation by Michelle Sacks from Street Grace, one of MDPC's mission partners. The subject will be *"Keeping Kids Safe in the Digital Age"*. It will take place on September 25, 6:30-8:00pm, in the Amphitheater.
  - Next up will be a presentation by Lt. Roy Guinn, Harris County 5<sup>th</sup> Precinct Deputy. His topic will be *"Personal Safety Awareness and Self Defense"*. It will take place on October 2, 6:30-8:30pm, in the Amphitheater.
- Then on November 10, the Community Relations Committee will host a "Coffee and Connection" breakfast for Veterans. The goal is to foster connections between fellow veterans in our community. Pastor Halvorson will open the coffee hour with a devotional and prayer. That will lead to a time of table talk where there will be a "host" veteran at each table to help get the conversations going.
- Contact Community Relations Deacon Judy Stockton or Beverly Fluke for more information.

#### Dementia and Caregiver Support:

- **The Gathering:** The theme for the August 6th Gathering was "endless summer." Ten care partners attended along with nine caregivers and sixteen volunteers (including staff members). The easy craft used bingo daubers to make tree leaves for a painting. Exercise was conducted by Nancy Blurton. Entertainment was Tracey Pace who played the piano in the chapel which was comical and lively. At the end one of our care partners asked if he could play the piano. He is very talented after having a career tuning pianos. Lunch was served and bingo was played.
- The **Caregivers Lunch** was held on August 21 and had 7 people in attendance.

#### Grief Support:

- **Transforming Grief:** The Transforming Grief program is now underway for its fall series, scheduled August 13 – October 1 from 3:30-5:00pm on Wednesday afternoons. The facilitators are Jo Ballard and Christine Roskamp, with Rev. Barbara Retzloff providing pastoral support in Beth Case's absence.
- **The Widows Connection:** The Widows Connection took a summer break and did not meet in July or August. Their next lunch gathering will be at 11:30am on September 16<sup>th</sup>. Contact Judy Stockton for more information.
- **Ministry of Presence:** Caring Ministries staff and officers send out cards and grief books to MDPC members during their first year of losing a loved one.

#### Health Ministry:

- Blood Drive: The final one for the year will be Sunday, October 26, 2025.

#### 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 Beverly Fluke or online at [homecommunion.mdpc.org](http://homecommunion.mdpc.org).

#### Home Visitation:

- The Home Visitation team makes monthly visits/calls to members of the MDPC community who can no longer make it to church in person or just appreciate extra connection with caring Christian brothers and sisters.
- If you have a caring heart for our older members, this would be a wonderful ministry in which to get involved. Please contact Jim Newlin, Visitation Deacon, at [jnewlin@comcast.net](mailto:jnewlin@comcast.net) or Beverly Fluke if you would like to join the team or learn more about this ministry.

### **Memorial Services:**

- August: 2 memorial services with receptions.

### **Prayer Ministry:**

- The staff continues to meet twice weekly in the Amphitheater for prayer. This schedule for this is coordinated by Christine Gentil. The 10-15 minute gathering is led by various staff of various ministries around MDPC!
- **Partner-in-Prayer** plans to start recruiting in early November for 2026 Partners in Prayer.

### **Second Family:**

- Mobile Meals Volunteers spent 7.5 hours delivering food to 3 care partners in addition to 3 care partners who were able to pick up meals at MDPC Café.
- Second Family Volunteers spent 41 hours supporting their care partners during August 2025. In August we had ten care partners in Second Family.
- The care partners are always very grateful for the visits and trips to doctor's appointments. And the "Second Family Team" enjoys the visits as well. Nico (therapy dog) is still volunteering!!
- During the summer the MDPC Café was closed for 3 week July 14<sup>th</sup> through August 3<sup>rd</sup>. But our wonderful Caring Ministry staff made alternate arrangements. The mobile meal volunteers picked up from Caring Ministry office.

### **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.
- **Venturers:** The last meeting was on September 8 (second Monday) with Pastor Alf who gave a rationale for and an update of MDPC's Master Plan.
- **Encore Fellowship:** A wine tasting was held at Vine Memorial, August 18 with 23 attending. The next event will be dinner at Saltgrass on Katy Freeway on September 23.
- **Prime Timers:** The next event will be lunch at Cleburne Cafeteria on September 17.
- **Senior Adult Fellowship Lunch:** The third Monday of each month at MDPC Café with Show and Tell at
  - August 18 – Something you made or wrote, 20 attended
  - September 15 – Your school memorabilia, 19 attended

### **Stephen Ministry:**

- The Stephen Ministry team met on August 12 for Supervisory Meeting and again on August 22 for Continuing Education. Christyn Knoop discussed and illustrated the Enneagram personality typing tool which can aid in personal growth and understanding in relationships.
- On October 5<sup>th</sup>, Stephen Ministry will be holding a Lunch and Learn event after church to share info on this special ministry with those who might want to become Stephen Ministers. There is no obligation, just an opportunity to learn more and ask questions of current Stephen Ministers. Contact Beverly Fluke for more information and to RSVP.

- 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:**

- Pastor Beth Case is on sabbatical August 11-November 8.

**Children's Ministries Committee Minutes:**

Tuesday, August 19, 2025

Attendants: Keri Mostk, Angela Jennings, Ginny French, Rachel Poysky, Ashley Plaisance, Tara Riebschlaeger, Kristen Anderson, Mimi Wells, Lenora Oliveira, Heather Tacket, Mayra Arellano, Michael Kringel, Ellen Davidson, Maryan Moghrabi, Elizabeth Crawley (facetime)

Devotional led by Keri Mosk

Summer Recap: Mission Extreme had great attendance, projects were well received (mission of Yahweh, Kids Meals, Brookwood), Princess Day had 45 attendants,

Summer Celebration: 700 kids attended, 200 adult volunteers, 170 teen volunteers. In elementary 200 children listed MDPC as church home, 350 listed other church as church home and 150 not affiliated with other churches. 20 identified Special needs kids involved in all the programming

Elementary Update: Kick off weekend; 168 kids in attendance (86 @ 9:45/56 @ 11:15). Need some volunteers for 11:15 (1<sup>st</sup> and 4<sup>th</sup>/5<sup>th</sup>) Dig in Curriculum: focused on fundamental lessons. Faith walk and First Communion registration open: 3<sup>rd</sup> grade Bible registration coming. Moms blast off book club starts in October

Important elementary dates:

Blast off September 17

September 10 children's choir kick off

Preschool Update: 60/18 attendants at kick off weekend, need 1 possibly 2 volunteers. Started worship Sunday and benches were full. Looking for guitar players for Sunday. Chapel at the schools starts this week

Important Preschool Dates:

September 20<sup>th</sup> boys superhero event

October 18 bubble day

Childcare Plus Update: Upcoming PNO can only have 60 spots, Sunday school training this coming weekend

Kaleidoscope & Safe Haven Update: 5 kids at 9:45 and 3 at 11:15. Need another volunteer at 11:15, 6 week Teen Bible study during blast off weeks. Safe Haven family camp in October capped at 96 (full). PNO for younger kids in September (3mo - 11)

Little School/Yellow School: training weekend, Parent orientation last Thursday, Friday meet the teacher, parent social and fundraiser @BPD. Working on accreditation, adding more faith-based learning

Fuente: no update

BPC: no update

Parent Classes: Mom Co., Sunday Classes for families: Parish- new beginnings newly married new babies, Preschool Parents, GPS elementary, Life 2.0, Bible Basics

## **Finance Committee Minutes:**

August 18, 2025

Present members: Marcus Vajdos, Dena Bankett, Kelly Handel, Mark Lumpkin, Bob Davis, Kyle Wienert, Rosy Pereira, Michael McCormack, Jennifer Fernelius, Bill Enzer

Absent members: Christina Morse, Chris Arend, Karin Tyson

Quorum: there was quorum present

1. The meeting was held in person and started at 5:22pm. Jennifer Fernelius and Bill Enzer attended online.
2. June minutes were deemed acceptable for approval by consent.
3. A devotional was led by Dena Bankett
4. Mr. Vajdos asked for updates from the different committees:
  - a. Generosity: Mr. McCormack noted This year's pledge campaign theme: "**Active Generosity – Generosity Through Generations**" with the focus on encouraging giving of time, talent and treasure. Plans to incorporate **educational components** beyond the fall campaign (spring activities, online resources, simplified financial reports for transparency). Online giving forecasting tools (AI-based) being reviewed by **Ava and Diane** for potential implementation.
  - b. Outreach: Ms. Fernelius noted there was nothing major to report. There is a discernment process underway with new partners. Mr. Vajdos asked about any discussion regarding the "Over and Above" and Julie will follow up with Amy Delgado in the next committee meeting.
  - c. Personnel: Ms. Vajdos noted there were three second interviews completed for the HR director's role. Candidates were sourced via LinkedIn Recruiter (approx. 80 applicants). One candidate identified as strong but still in discernment. Some positions were released, and job postings are ongoing. Clerk: Ms. Handel stated the group is still working on the Policies and Operations Manual but progressing slowly. The group anticipates a reduction in content (~30%). Some ministry sections may be trimmed heavily. Finance Committee review is still pending.
5. Mr. Vajdos reported on financials
  - a. 2025 YTD contributions currently \$112K under budget (as of July). Variance impacted by timing adjustment in budget spread. Mr. Vajdos explained that CY budget is based on PY (best year) results not the 5-years average. Other operating income is higher by \$112.7K primarily due to the recording of Unrealized Gains and Losses (URGL). The team will review the appropriate accounting guidance for accounting to URGL.
  - b. Personnel expenses are \$80K below budgeted; supporting ministry expenses were \$80K over budget primarily due to communication (employee benefits/timing). Overall operating expenses are in line with the budget. Outreach disbursements are higher than budget, mainly due to timing.
  - c. Mr. Vajdos stated the FY26 budget planning process will start in September
6. New business
  - a. Mr. Vajdos explained the nature of the Teaching Church funds and asked for support to determine if these funds should be managed under Legacy or Finance. The fund was established to support the residency program and support training of ECO pastors. There are no current residents and no expected spending for the remainder of 2025. Upon discussion, it was determined Mr. Vajdos will perform further research on the business plan for the residency program and future projections needed to support the plan, including if there are any requirements to report use of these funds to the donors.
7. Unfinished businesses:

- a. Church buses: Mr. Vajdos noted the transaction with the new transportation company has not been finalized due to the low liability coverage. Discussions are still being held, and an update will be provided once the matter is resolved. Overall, the new services have been good.
  - b. Create reserve accounts spreadsheet: No updates
  - c. Discounts/Scholarships research on why no budget: No updates
8. Facilities & Deferred Maintenance:
- a. Discussion of sanctuary projects: stained glass, pew reupholstery, AV/lighting upgrades, chancel renovation. Estimated costs: potentially up to \$1 million; need coordination with long-term master plan.
  - b. Past facility assessment reports exist and should be compiled for Finance Committee review.
  - c. Ongoing deferred maintenance line item exists but may require increase.
  - d. Action Items:
    - i. Locate and review facility condition assessment.
    - ii. Compile pipeline of upcoming 5–10-year capital needs.
    - iii. Consider sanctuary projects within deferred maintenance, not capital campaign.

The meeting adjourned at 6:23pm.  
Mr. Lumpkin closed us in prayer.

### **Outreach Committee Minutes:** **September 15, 6 pm**

- I. Devotional and Dinner *Kim Oswald*  
Kim shared Mark 10:43 True greatness comes from serving others; it's an integral part of a meaningful life. She also provided dinner and gave an opening prayer.

- II. Committee Reports: Funding Recommendations and Meeting Debriefs  
Global *Sharon Roark*
  - The Micah Project, \$60,000
  - Missionary Partner: Rev. M and Family, \$5,500 (Funding made out to: The Antioch Partners, Designated: Sajadi Family)
  - Missionary Partner: Missionary Family in SE Asia, \$5,500 (Funding made out to: The Antioch Partners, Designated: House Family)

Sharon Roark moved that we fund these partners as presented, Kim Oswald seconded, and all approved.

- Children Families and Housing (CFH) *Kim Oswald*
  - Casa de Esperanza, \$15,000
  - Child Advocates, \$12,000
  - Houston Legal Aid, \$10,000
  - Houston Welcomes Refugees, \$7,500

Kim Oswald moved that we fund these partners as presented, Marc Laney seconded, and all approved.

- Discipleship and Education (DE) *Lisa McChristian*
  - Faithful Fathering, \$25,000
  - Work Faith, \$25,000
  - Fuller Theological, \$20,000 (Funds will be used as scholarships for The Antioch Ministry Experience Cohort, which offers a Master of Arts in Theology and Ministry (MATM) degree and the Master of Divinity degree in a hybrid format.)
  - Young Life, \$50,000 (Funds are designated as follows: \$16,500 for Greater Houston - Next Gen Leaders + \$16,500 for Greater Houston - Camperships and \$17,000 for West Houston Young Life)

- Get Together, \$7,500
- Gathering of Men, \$6,000
- Home Encouragement, \$15,000

Lisa McChristian moved that we fund these partners as presented, Rosy Pereira seconded, and all approved.

#### Health and Special Needs (HSN)

*Marc Laney*

- Casa El Buen Samaritano, \$35,500
- Easter Seals of Greater Houston, \$20,000 (Designated for Adult Disability Program)
- ECHOS, \$25,000
- Houston Area Parkinson's Society, \$15,000
- Magnificat Houses, Inc., \$22,500
- The Rose, \$20,000
- The committee is vetting potential new partners including PTSD Foundation of America/Camp Hope Residence and SportsQuest.

Marc Laney moved that we fund these partners as presented, Mike Pelton seconded, and all approved.

#### Spring Branch and Hunger (SBH)

*Mike Pelton*

- Cornerstone Family Ministries, \$38,000
- LIFE Houston, \$20,000 (Designation Formula Inventory), \$20,000
- Santa Maria Hostel, \$20,000
- Urban Outreach, \$40,000

Mike Pelton moved that we fund these partners as presented, Carla Land seconded, and all approved.

### III. Staff reports

#### A. Over & Above

*All*

- Will be discussed at November Outreach meeting, turn in your committee's prioritized list to Kelsi by November 7.
- Use specific format from Kelsi.

#### B. Local

*Julie LaRue*

- Outreach Sunday on September 28.
- Thanksgiving in a Bag is starting soon—look for bags soon
- There are 10 seats available at the upcoming Mission of Yahweh gala on September 26.
- Raise Up Families BINGO Bash on October 23 at MDPC.
- Gave a \$10,000 donation to MAM for victims of apartment fire.
- Sent \$25,000 to Community Foundation of the Texas Hill Country in Kerr County.

#### C. Global

*Kelsi McCormack*

- Mission Market will be discussed at the October meeting.
- Group of 8 went to visit Micah Project over Labor Day weekend.
- In October we will approve Mission Market partners (7 global partners and 8 local partners, 2 per local committee) and Christmas Eve Offering partners (missionaries).

#### D. Special Initiatives

*Amy Delgado*

- Encourage your committee members to attend Outreach Sunday to help welcome our partners. Arrive around 9:15 a.m.

### IV. Closing Prayer

*Marc Laney*

#### **Next meeting:**

Monday, October 20, 2025, with Dinner and Devo by Jennifer Fernelius

## Relationships Ministries Committee Minutes:

### Women's Ministry Update – September 2025

All three committees kicked off the year with new chairs—thank you to outgoing leaders Nancy Powell, Margaret Humphries, Teri Adair, and Amber Caver! A Steering Committee meeting is planned for November once our new elder is announced.

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### Spiritual Committee (Met 9/9)

*Chairs: Hannah Warren & Berklee Baay*

*In attendance: Laura Benes, Beverly Fluke, Rachel Ehorn, Christyn Knoop, Teri Adair, Sue Harkins, Olga Griffin*

- Berklee led devotional, welcomed new members Rachel Ehorn and Olga Griffin
  - Spring (Empty Nester) and Summer (Liturgy of the Ordinary) studies reviewed.
  - 31 Days of Prayer devotional nearly complete— 5 committee members volunteered to write last entries; will be available in English, Spanish, Portuguese at Christmas coffee. Led by Christyn Knoop and Amanda Grace Morris.
  - Upcoming: **The Well** (10/16), **Fall Study 5 Portraits of Courage** (10/23–11/20) led by Cheryl Moore and Christyn Knoop, **Spiritual Retreat** (11/15, Brookshire)
  - Next meeting: 11/18 at 10am (Summit).
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### Connection Committee (Met 8/26)

*Chair: Cara Karbach | Chair-Elect: Erin Cunningham*

*In attendance: Laura Benes, Tiffany Hill, Erin via phone, Marsha Hartsell, Annie Ickes, Roberta Amley, Meredith Cooley, Regan Burrows*

- Recap: *Slice of Summer* social (24 attendees), Create & Connect continues monthly, Bingo (9/11) drew 160+ women—under budget, huge success.
  - Planning: Girls Getaway (Feb 6–8, Laurien Hook speaking), Cooking Class (3/26, 10th annual), Slice of Summer 2026 (Regan Burrows chairing).
  - Christmas Coffee planning — chairs Roberta and Susanne will meet via zoom with last year's chairs – Laura to set up; 150 copies of *31 Days of Prayer* to distribute
  - No Christmas Happy Hour this year; may revisit for 2026.
  - Next meeting: January. Date TBD
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### Outreach/Multi-Cultural Committee (Met 9/16)

*Chair: Tami Casteel*

*In attendance: Laura Benes, Amber Caver, Kelly Howell, Betsy Dodson, Ruth Schenau, Jenny Tanuous, Brenda Mueller, Stasie Crowson, Miranda McKee*

- Coat drive at **The Well** (10/16) to benefit Gracewood; need to get boxes/signage in place.
- **Fall service project** at Gracewood in planning. Theme concept: Goodnight Moon with the 29 kids in residence – Brenda Mueller and Ruth Schenau coordinating.
- **Christmas for Kids:** sign-up by 11/1; breezeway recruitment (11/9, 11/16, 11/23); Dates still to be determined: Gifts due and delivery to Small Steps.



- **Women Together (1/22/26):** Co-chairs Susan Eyre & Miranda McKee; focus on recruiting BPC ladies; 31 Days of Prayer in 3 languages to distribute.
  - **Spring Service Project:** Mother's Day gift bags for Santa Maria Hostel (led by Kelly Howell).
  - Next meeting: January. Date TBD
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#### **Other Updates**

- *WayForward Hiking Trip* (July 2026): 8 confirmed, 2 spots open; possible 2nd trip with different dates.
- *One-on-One's* – Second Training (9/25). Expecting 12-14.
- *Community Groups* Info meeting (10/19); 42+ signed up. Charlotte Adams helping lead.