



SESSION DOCUMENTS

Mon, Sep 28, 2026

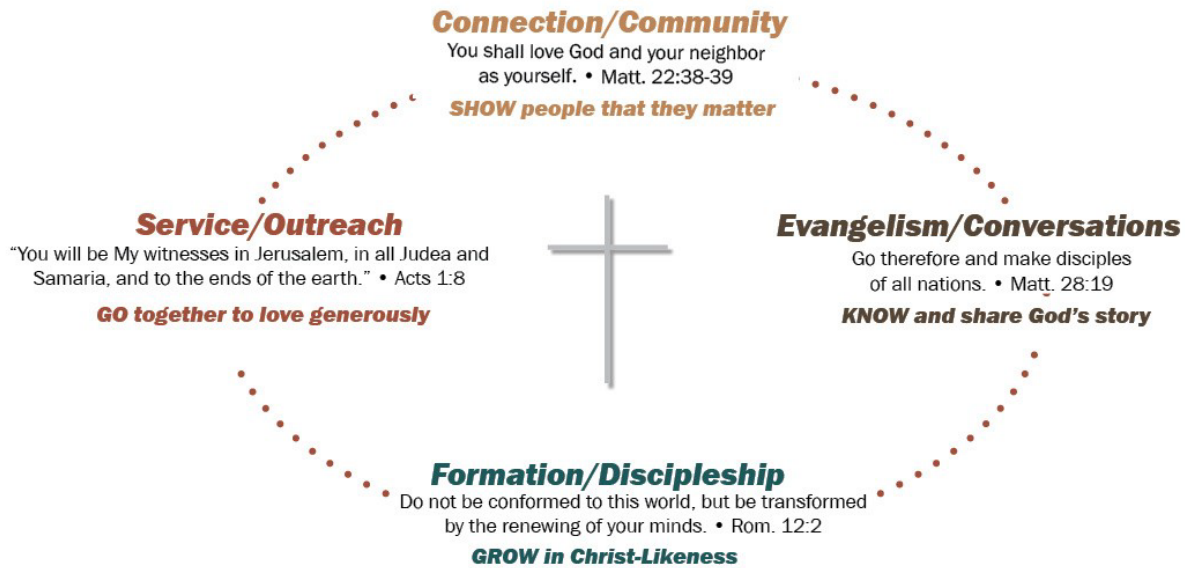
Memorial Drive Presbyterian Church
Loving God. Proclaiming Christ. Living Generously. Engaging All.

Session Meeting Agenda
September 28, 2026



Strategic Goals

2023-2028



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1. **Call to Order and Opening Prayer** (Rachel Poysky)
 2. **Establishment of Quorum** (Joe Stockdale)
 3. **Master Planning Update and Campaign Calendar** (Marcus Vajdos and Team)
 4. **Clerk's Report** (Carla Bradford and Joe Stockdale)
 - Texas Presbytery Meeting Recap
 - Nominating Committee Update
 5. **ECO Theology Conference Update**
 6. **Sabbatical Report** (Dan Aikins)
 7. **Treasurer's Report** (Kyle Wienert)
 8. **Generosity Campaign Update** (Marcus Vajdos)
 9. **Baptism 101** (Dan Aikins and Rachel Poysky)
 10. **Omnibus Motion**
 - a. **Motion** to approve the minutes of August 24, 2026, Session Meeting.
 - b. **Motion** to approve the Combined Minutes of Session Committees September 2026.

c. **Transfers and Dismissals:**

Please dismiss the following active member upon request due to out of state move:

Christensen, Peggy

d. **Motion** to approve the following baptisms to be performed in October 2026.

Name	Age	Parents	Member	Date
Ava Catherine Drum	Youth	Laura Lee and Hayden Drum	Mom-Yes Dad-Yes	10/11/2026 Immersion
Briar Emerson Kingsley	Youth	Thora and John Henry Kingsley	Mom-Yes Dad-Yes	10/11/2026 Sprinkle
John Henry Kingsley III	Youth	Thora and John Henry Kingsley	Mom-Yes Dad-Yes	10/11/2026 Immersion
Truman David Kingsley	Toddler	Thora and John Henry Kingsley	Mom-Yes Dad-Yes	10/11/2026 Sprinkle
Mackenzie Kate Mora	Youth	Sidnie and Eric Mora	Mom-No Dad-No	10/11/2026 Immersion
Madeline Nicole Mora	Youth	Sidnie and Eric Mora	Mom-No Dad-No	10/11/2026 Immersion
Miller Ted Sheets	Infant	Holly and Colton Sheets	Mom-Yes Dad-Yes	10/11/2026 Sprinkle
Andrew Jesse Torres	Toddler	Ellie and Edgar Torres	Mom-Yes Dad-Yes	10/11/2026 Sprinkle
Oliver Daniel Torres	Toddler	Ellie and Edgar Torres	Mom-Yes Dad-Yes	10/11/2026 Sprinkle

d. **Motion** to approve Outreach Partner Funding for September 2026 as follows:

Outreach Partner Funding: September 2026

Consent Agenda items:

1. Partner Funding Recommendations

Designated

• Boys & Girls Country	\$15,000		CFH
• Generation One	\$30,000		CFH
• Houston Legal Aid Center	\$10,000		CFH
• Houston Welcomes Refugees	\$7,500		CFH
• FinD (Fellowship in Discipleship)	\$25,000		DE
• Theology by the Pint	\$15,000		DE
• Faithful Fathering	\$25,000		DE
• Bo's Place	\$15,000		HSN
• Parent Project Muscular Dystrophy	\$13,000	South Texas Family Camp	HSN
• The Rose	\$20,000		HSN
• Faith Ministry	\$20,000	Berea Bible Institute	Global
• Faith in Practice	\$30,000		Global
Totaling:		\$225,500	

YTD Outreach Funding Total: \$2,264,000

2. Christmas Eve Offering 2026 Partners

Designated

*Funding will be distributed proportionately based on missionary funding level.

• Urban Catalyst	Designated: Justin Elder	Local Missionary
• The Antioch Partners	Designated: Adair	Global Missionary
• Frontier Fellowship	Designated: Biru	Global Missionary
• CRU	Designated: Missionary #0638840	Global Missionary
• Steven and Natalie Hall		Global Missionary
• The Antioch Partners	Designated: House Family	Global Missionary
• YWAM	Designated: Personal Support (Johnson)	Global Missionary
• Allegro Organizational Solutions	Designated: Acct# NYC-BB.KSJ	Global Missionary
• The Antioch Partners	Designated: Leina & Salam	Global Missionary
• Action International Ministries	Designated: Acct# 47001	Global Missionary
• Reliant	Designated: Fund # FD6936	Global Missionary
• The Antioch Partners	Designated: Sajadi Family	Global Missionary
• Pioneers	Designated: Acct# 112440	Global Missionary
• Novo Mission Inc.	Designated: Acct# 6781 Zovak	Global Missionary

3. Mission Market 2026 Partners

*Funding will be distributed based on purchaser selection.

• The Antioch Partners		Global
• Faith in Practice		Global
• Free Wheelchair Mission		Global
• Living Water International		Global
• Grace International Children's Foundation	Lulwanda Children's Home	Global
• The Micah Project		Global
• Pars Theological Centre		Global
• Galveston Urban Ministries		CFH
• Generation One		CFH
• Prison Entrepreneurship Program		DE
• Camp Blessing		DE
• Archway Academy		HSN
• Prayers of the People		HSN
• Bayou City Blessings in a Backpack		SBH
• Santa Maria Hostel		SBH

11. Calendar Reminders

September 28	Session Meeting Chapel 6:30pm
October 4	Beth Case Preaching Interrupted and Sent: The Kind of Church Worth Building For World Communion & First Communion Sunday
October 11	Alf Halvorson Preaching Interrupted and Sent: When Growth Creates Pressure Baptisms
October 18	Alf Halvorson Preaching Interrupted and Sent: Integrity in the House
October 25	Alf Halvorson Preaching Interrupted and Sent: Structure Serves Mission/Outreach
October 26	Session Meeting Chapel 6:30pm
November 1	Alf Halvorson Preaching Interrupted and Sent: Faith No Matter the Cost Covenant Sunday

2026 Remaining Session Meeting Dates

October 26
November- No Meeting
December 14

2026 Remaining Communion Dates

October 4| World Communion; First Communion
November 29| First Sunday in Advent

2027 Session Meeting Dates

January 22* (Officer and Staff Retreat Friday 22-Saturday 23)
February 22
March 22
April 26
May 24
June 28
July -No Meeting
August 23
September 27
October 25
November- No Meeting
December 13

12. Announcements and Additional Business

- Communion Servers Needed for this Sunday, October 4th

13. Adjournment & Prayer Time (Brett Hurst)

- **Motion** to adjourn the September 2026 Session Meeting.

Memorial Drive Presbyterian Church
Balance Sheet Thru August
MDPC Summary Balance Sheet-2026

Name	Month to Month			
	August 2026	July 2026	Difference	August 2025
ASSETS				
Unrestricted Cash & Cash Equivalents	959,162.19	997,208.45	(38,046.26)	905,081.94
Current Investments (Unrestricted)	1,405,024.06	2,151,625.92	(746,601.86)	1,515,080.90
Total Unrestricted Cash & Cash Equivalents	2,364,186.25	3,148,834.37	(784,648.12)	2,420,162.84
Current Investments (Restricted)	8,668,685.27	7,957,249.27	711,436.00	4,564,955.21
Legacy Restricted Cash & Equivalents	5,406,226.12	5,406,226.12	-	4,905,982.46
Total Restricted Cash & Equivalents	14,074,911.39	13,363,475.39	711,436.00	9,470,937.67
Prepaid Expense, Deposits, Inventory	464,467.06	518,952.14	(54,485.08)	438,256.58
Miscellaneous Receivables	7,205.67	10,154.76	(2,949.09)	8,217.99
Property & Equipment	58,339,637.83	58,339,637.83	-	57,975,154.21
Accumulated Depreciation	(50,450,025.45)	(50,450,025.45)	-	(48,937,881.77)
Note Receivable	-	-	-	-
TOTAL ASSETS	24,800,382.75	24,931,029.04	(130,646.29)	21,374,847.52
LIABILITIES				
Accounts Payable	950,105.97	274,131.40	675,974.57	180,130.41
Other Payables	128,561.95	129,984.66	(1,422.71)	93,033.34
Prepaid Tuition and Fees	58,409.36	158,893.60	(100,484.24)	42,110.00
Custodial Accounts	514.40	357.50	156.90	47,509.51
	-	-	-	-
TOTAL LIABILITIES	1,137,591.68	563,367.16	574,224.52	362,783.26
NET ASSETS				
Unrestricted Net Assets	9,373,485.22	10,140,141.51	(766,656.29)	10,144,723.60
Temp. Restricted Net Assets	8,964,256.56	8,882,857.87	81,398.69	5,896,648.17
Perm. Restricted Net Assets	433,857.59	433,857.59	-	433,857.59
Restricted Legacy Net Assets	4,891,191.70	4,910,804.91	(19,613.21)	4,536,834.90
TOTAL NET ASSETS	23,662,791.07	24,367,661.88	(704,870.81)	21,012,064.26
TOTAL LIABILITIES & NET ASSETS	24,800,382.75	24,931,029.04	(130,646.29)	21,374,847.52

Budgeted Financial Statement for Period 8 - August
SUMMARY INCOME & EXPENSE - 2026
Company#: 1 Name: Memorial Drive Presbyterian Church
Fiscal Year Beginning 1/1/2026

Description	August Act	2026 YTD Act	2026 YTD Bud	Over (Under) Budget	% Variance YTD	Prior YTD 2025	2026 Budget Full Year
OPERATING INCOME							
Contributions	\$ 1,191,885	\$ 8,795,519	\$ 8,067,272	\$ 728,247	9.03	\$ 7,707,037	\$ 14,728,728
Bank/Gateway/Credit Card Fees	\$ (3,215)	\$ (36,181)	\$ -	\$ (36,181)	-	\$ (35,587)	\$ -
Ministry Events Revenue	\$ 299,399	\$ 2,241,381	\$ 2,384,295	\$ (142,914)	(5.99)	\$ 2,321,475	\$ 3,510,278
Other Operating Income	\$ 5,247	\$ 141,001	\$ 66,667	\$ 74,334	111.50	\$ 163,989	\$ 100,000
TOTAL OPERATING INCOME	\$ 1,493,317	\$ 11,141,719	\$ 10,518,233	\$ 623,486	5.93	\$ 10,156,914	\$ 18,339,006
Ministry Operating Expense							
Pastoral Ministry							
Caring Ministry	\$ 35,217	\$ 288,653	\$ 299,294	\$ (10,641)	3.56	\$ 272,644	\$ 450,729
Fuente	\$ 15,994	\$ 120,653	\$ 112,070	\$ 8,582	(7.66)	\$ 115,402	\$ 170,496
Children's Ministry	\$ 70,701	\$ 635,035	\$ 641,561	\$ (6,526)	1.02	\$ 618,309	\$ 938,690
Youth Ministry	\$ 57,785	\$ 480,616	\$ 448,072	\$ 32,544	(7.26)	\$ 416,331	\$ 682,700
Relationships	\$ 27,724	\$ 267,388	\$ 256,287	\$ 11,101	(4.33)	\$ 237,732	\$ 388,360
Sports and REACH Programs	\$ 15,633	\$ 224,781	\$ 334,026	\$ (109,245)	32.71	\$ 339,126	\$ 490,181
Outreach (Admin)	\$ 61,696	\$ 507,737	\$ 497,477	\$ 10,259	(2.06)	\$ 450,754	\$ 744,128
Adult Discipleship	\$ 37,398	\$ 235,222	\$ 267,288	\$ (32,066)	12.00	\$ 286,112	\$ 400,940
Young Adult	\$ 20,069	\$ 164,322	\$ 160,466	\$ 3,856	(2.40)	\$ 161,942	\$ 241,702
Worship	\$ 41,835	\$ 387,110	\$ 337,046	\$ 50,064	(14.85)	\$ 317,104	\$ 508,890
Traditional Music	\$ 32,012	\$ 295,441	\$ 290,056	\$ 5,386	(1.86)	\$ 286,267	\$ 438,820
Contemporary Music	\$ 31,344	\$ 233,401	\$ 223,048	\$ 10,353	(4.64)	\$ 225,183	\$ 332,576
Brazilian Ministry	\$ 16,548	\$ 122,917	\$ 145,880	\$ (22,963)	15.74	\$ 115,270	\$ 223,310
Total Pastoral Ministry	\$ 463,957	\$ 3,963,275	\$ 4,012,572	\$ (49,297)	1.23	\$ 3,842,177	\$ 6,011,522
Support Ministry							
Communications & Media	\$ 90,159	\$ 682,060	\$ 632,328	\$ 49,732	(7.86)	\$ 631,189	\$ 944,380
Administration	\$ 75,545	\$ 635,397	\$ 609,350	\$ 26,047	(4.27)	\$ 595,409	\$ 901,004
Food Service	\$ 43,943	\$ 134,262	\$ 106,667	\$ 27,595	(25.87)	\$ 116,301	\$ 160,000
Facilities & Technology	\$ 241,952	\$ 1,835,258	\$ 1,786,177	\$ 49,081	(2.75)	\$ 1,696,099	\$ 2,665,680
The Little School	\$ 113,811	\$ 956,004	\$ 950,248	\$ 5,756	(0.61)	\$ 870,293	\$ 1,425,388
The Yellow School	\$ 102,532	\$ 576,740	\$ 561,040	\$ 15,700	(2.80)	\$ 563,308	\$ 841,456
Total Support Ministry	\$ 667,943	\$ 4,819,721	\$ 4,645,810	\$ 173,911	(3.74)	\$ 4,472,600	\$ 6,937,908
	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	-	\$ -	\$ -
Total Ministry Operating Expense	\$ 1,131,900	\$ 8,782,995	\$ 8,658,382	\$ 124,614	-1.44%	\$ 8,314,777	\$ 12,949,430
Outreach Expense							
Outreach - Ministry Sponsored	\$ 76,611	\$ 903,842	\$ 1,032,742	\$ (128,899.87)	12.48	\$ 943,850	\$ 1,484,976
Outreach - Ministry Partners	\$ 866,000	\$ 2,169,126	\$ 1,549,775	\$ 619,350.70	(39.96)	\$ 1,891,020	\$ 3,234,600
Total Outreach Expense	\$ 942,611	\$ 3,072,968	\$ 2,582,517	\$ 490,450.83	(18.99)	\$ 2,834,870	\$ 4,719,576
Other Operating Expense							
Insurance & Legal	\$ 48,839	\$ 355,823	\$ 413,333	\$ (57,511)	13.91	\$ 429,795	\$ 620,000
Capital Additions/Reserve	\$ 4,167	\$ 33,333	\$ 33,333	\$ (0)	0.00	\$ 33,333	\$ 50,000
Total Other Operating Expense	\$ 53,006	\$ 389,156	\$ 446,667	\$ (57,511)	12.88	\$ 463,129	\$ 670,000
TOTAL OPERATING EXPENSES	\$ 2,127,517	\$ 12,245,119	\$ 11,687,566	\$ 557,554	-4.77%	\$ 11,612,776	\$ 18,339,006
Other Income(Loss)							
Total Other Income(Loss)	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	-	\$ -	\$ -
NET INCOME (LOSS)	\$ (634,201)	\$ (1,103,400)	\$ (1,169,332)	\$ 65,932	-5.64%	\$ (1,455,862)	\$ 0
Restr & Enrichment Inc/(Exp)	\$ (70,670)	\$ 75,811	\$ -	\$ 75,811	-	\$ 410,609	\$ -

MINUTES OF THE STATED MEETING OF THE SESSION
Memorial Drive Presbyterian Church
August 24, 2026

Elders Present: Carla Bradford, Rick Chapman, Daniel Crank, Elizabeth Crawley, Lance Dardis, Kelley Edwards, Ellen Davidson, Bob Davis, Alex Knoop, Marc Laney, Bob Larson, Madison Limbacher, Hector Longoria, David Michels, Kim Oswald, Mike Pelton, Nikki Pielop, Rosy Pereira, Yvonne Ramirez, Sharon Roark, Peggy Samuels, David Shelfer, Nathan Stedham, Joe Stockdale, Drew Tingleaf, Karin Tyson, Andre Verona, Suzanne Wharton, Kyle Wienert

Elders Excused: Jeannie Able, Rick Chapman, Tomas Lopes, Lisa McChristian

Elders Absent: Amanda Austin, Kevin Dillon, Stephanie Espinoza, Leslee Lumpkin, Hunter Smith, Ryan Taylor

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

Pastors Excused: Clay Brown

Staff Present: Carter Bliss, Amy Delgado, Beverly Fluke, Sally Henien, Amanda Shockley, Jennifer Vajdos, Marcus Vajdos

Call to Order: Pastor Alf Halvorson called the meeting of the Session of Memorial Drive Presbyterian Church to order at 6:32 pm in the Chapel. Alf announced that Blair Emery Johnson, their first granddaughter, was born today! He opened the meeting with prayer.

Call for Quorum: The Clerk, Joe Stockdale, affirmed that a quorum was present. Use QR for check in.

Master Planning Update and Next Steps (Alf Halvorson and Marcus Vajdos)

Alf caught us up on the timeline and how we got to this point in the master planning process. Alf then asked Mike Handel to introduce or guests from Merriman Holt Powell and The Mathis Group for tonight's presentation.

**a PDF copy of this presentation can be found on the Officer Resources Page.*

Motion from the floor for:

- *Approval of Expenditures through January 2027*
Forecasted expenditure through January up to \$1.2m
Allows us to: Advance Design
Award the needed Engineers: Civil, MEP, Structural
Fundraising at high level (Phase 2)

Motion unanimously approved by Session.

New Members (Almir Dias and Guillermo Yela)

Matheus Wrege Amaro, Shirley Stephanie Martinez, Alex McMullen, Lisbeily Navas, Maritza Ortiz, Cecilia Piedrahita, Luz Valencia

The above-named friends attended in person and online to be received by Session. They were asked to introduce themselves – answering what drew them to MDPC and one way they want to serve here. Pastor Guillermo and Pastor Almir translated for some. Pastor Alf asked the questions of membership. A **Motion** to *receive the above-named friends as Covenant Partners at MDPC* was made and unanimously approved by Session and Pastor Almir prayed over our newest Covenant partners.

Clerk's Report: (Carla Bradford and Joe Stockdale)

Joe reminded us of the expectation as elders to attend at least one Presbytery or ECO meeting during our service as elders- there is upcoming **Texas Presbytery Meeting at Windwood Presbyterian, Houston, TX, Sept 18-19** He also updated us on the **ECO Theology Conference – September 21-23 to be held here at MDPC**. Lastly, he encouraged us to sign up for a bite sized opportunity to serve by picking up college students from HCU and bringing them to and from MDPC on Sundays!

Carla updated us on Officer Nominations. The form closes tomorrow, the 25th, at end of day. QR code for any additional submissions was put up on the screen. We will be working on a slate of 20 officers: 13 elders, 7 deacon positions – The committee will meet starting 9/3. Carla listed the names of committee members and requested that they be kept in prayer during this process. Alf shared that Clay Brown, our Pastoral representative, had surgery today so please keep him in prayer for quick recovery.

Treasurer's Report: (Kyle Wienert)

We are roughly 500K over contributions budget- We are at a y-t-d low/trough of cash flow for the year- have spent a good portion of our outreach funding to date. 4th quarter contributions will generally ramp up considerably.

Generosity Update: Offering/Plate Collections (Kyle Wienert)

On average we collect \$1500-1700 on Sundays we pass the plate- we have moved to plate collection two times per month and will continue this through the end of the year and going into 2027.

Legacy Giving Update: (Nathan Stedham and Marcus Vajdos)

- **Motion from the Legacy Giving Committee** to approve the purchase of two six- passenger golf carts to replace two carts in the existing fleet with the total price not to exceed \$30,000. **Motion Carried.**

Omnibus Agenda:

Alf introduced the Omnibus Motion below for April 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. **Motion Carried.**

- a. **Motion** to approve the minutes of June 22, 2026, Session Meeting.
- b. **Motion** to approve the Combined Minutes of Session Committees, August 2026.
- c. **Motion** to approve the following baptisms to be performed in September 2026:

Name	Age	Parents	Member	Date
Layne Lynwood Harrell	Toddler	Julianna Martel and Clayton Harrell	Mom-No Dad-Yes	9/6/2026 Sprinkle
Madden Martel Harrell	Infant	Julianna Martel and Clayton Harrell	Mom-No Dad-Yes	9/6/2026 Sprinkle

- d. **Motion** to approve Outreach Partner Funding for August 2026 as follows:

**Outreach Ministry – Partner Funding
Recommendations
August 2026**

Consent Agenda items:

1. Partner Funding Recommendations

Designated

• Agape Development Ministries	\$40,000	CFH
• Casa de Esperanza	\$15,000	CFH
• Foundations Christian Academy	\$10,000	CFH
• Mission Centers of Houston	\$30,000	CFH
• Outreach Center of West Houston	\$12,500	CFH
• Bridges to Life	\$15,000	DE
• The Gathering of Men	\$6,000	DE
• Prison Entrepreneurship Program	\$30,000	Operations for Houston-area Survive to Thrive program DE
• WorkFaith	\$30,000	DE

• Be An Angel	\$30,000		HSN
• Houston Area Parkinson's Society	\$15,000		HSN
• Magnificat Houses, Inc.	\$25,000		HSN
• Prayers of the People	\$7,000	Houston Operations	HSN
• PTSD Foundation of America	\$10,000	Camp Hope	HSN
• REACH Unlimited	\$25,000		HSN
• SportsQuest	\$7,500		HSN
• East Spring Branch Food Pantry	\$10,000		SBH
• IM Houston	\$35,000	Meals on Wheels & Animeals Programs	SBH
• Santa Maria Hostel	\$20,000	Greater Houston Area Operations	SBH
• SpringSpirit	\$25,000		SBH
• Urban Outreach	\$40,000		SBH
• The Antioch Partners	\$35,000		Global
• The Outreach Foundation	\$20,000	Evangelical Theological Seminary in Cairo - Mdiv Scholarships	Global
• Faith Ministry	\$30,000		Global
• Far East Broadcasting Company	\$45,000		Global
• Frontier Fellowship	\$25,000		Global
• Frontier Fellowship	\$55,000	Light of Hope Ethiopia	Global
• The Micah Project	\$60,000		Global
• One For Israel	\$10,000	Pre-Military IDF Ministry Program	Global
Totaling:		\$718,000	

2. Outreach Initiatives

Designated

• Alpha USA	\$30,000	Alpha USA
• Steiger International	\$17,500	US Operations
• Steiger International	\$2,500	Personal support for Carolina & Jozef Knapik
• Street Grace	\$65,000	Street Grace Houston
• Houston Food Bank	\$33,000	HCC Eagle Pantry & SWMS Weekend Food Program
Totaling:		\$148,000

YTD Outreach Funding Total: \$2,238,500

Calendar Reminders

August 25	Officer Nominations Close
August 30	Alf Halvorson Preaching Faith After the Funeral: The Job Journey
September 6	Alf Halvorson Preaching Faith After the Funeral: The Job Journey Labor Day Weekend -All Church Lunch BBQ Baptisms
September 13	Alf Halvorson Preaching Interrupted and Sent: The Church Before the Building Adult Discipleship Programming Begins
September 18-19	Texas Presbytery Meeting: Windwood Presbyterian, Houston
September 20	Alf Halvorson Preaching Interrupted and Sent
September 21-23	ECO Theological Conference Light in the Darkness Faithful Responses to Heresy
September 27	Alf Halvorson Preaching Interrupted and Sent Outreach Sunday
September 28	Session Meeting Chapel 6:30pm

2026 Remaining Session Meeting Dates

September 28

October 26

November- No Meeting

December 14

2026 Remaining Communion Dates

October 4| World Communion; First Communion

November 29| First Sunday in Advent

Master Planning Exercise: “Why?”

We spent 45 minutes on our Master Planning presentation tonight. Alf asked us to meet in small groups to debrief for 5-10 minutes on “***So That***”- what the result of our campaign might be for transformed lives- discuss based on your area utilizing the four pillars. Assign a scribe and send or hand to Jennifer so that we might use these ideas in talking points/document when talking to our members about the campaign.

Announcements and Additional Business

- September 21-23: ECO Theology Conference- First Ever! -our Elders and Deacons encouraged to Sign up!
- We are hosting three national conferences in September, October, and November here at MDPC to include an outreach conference and youth conference.

Adjournment and Prayer

A **Motion** to adjourn the August 2026 Session Meeting was made at 7:33 pm. We circled in prayer saying The Lords Prayer together.

Minutes respectfully submitted on behalf of Joe Stockdale, Clerk, by Jennifer Vajdos, Executive Ministries Director, August 2026

Combined Minutes of the Session Committees September 2026 Session Meeting

Caring Ministries Committee Minutes:

August 18, 2026

Attendees: Rosemary Armstrong, Beth Case, Betsy Chalmers, Annette Erickson, Beverly Fluke, Christine Gentil, Willie Jordan, Bob Larson, Barbara Mueller, Betsy Nash, Suzanne Tobin

Absent: Terral Cesak, Olga Griffin, Ross Purdy, Sue Warren

Opening Prayer: Beverly Fluke

Devotional and Discussion: Bob Larson gave a devotional from John Stott's book "Christian Mission" on the importance of service. There was then discussion and Q&A around the table on a variety of topics -- summer highlights, upcoming ministry events, the master plan, officer nominations, etc.

Ministry Reports

Branches: The Branches group currently has 10 active volunteers who write 30-40 cards each month. We meet monthly and write notes to members who are hospitalized or in rehab and notes to those who have been blessed with births. We also write notes of comfort to family members who have lost loved ones to death and send notes of recognition of grief anniversaries after 2 and 3 years following the deaths. We send notes of care and connection to those who need encouragement and to know that their MDPC family is thinking about them and praying for them. Contact deacon Willie Jordan or Beverly Fluke for more information.

Dementia and Caregiver Support:

- **The Gathering**
 - June 3rd was our Father's Day Gathering Celebration with a lemon and lime table decoration theme. Brenda Gay was the singer for the celebration and Carlene and Carol's exercise theme was summer including the giant parachute complete with balloons. We had a smaller group this month with 12 Volunteers, 5 CarePartners, 7 caregivers.
 - July is always a fun month with the fourth of July theme of red, white and blue abounding with the Stars and Stripes along with flags. It was held on July 1. Jon Ingram was the lively entertainer. Seven CarePartners, seven caregivers and ten volunteers were in attendance. The volunteers are all great at stepping up and into roles that they are not assigned, but the willingness to serve where needed is rewarding to see.
- **Caregivers Luncheon**
 - The monthly caregivers luncheon was held in June on June 11 and it was brought up that there are several people who might be interested in attending. It was determined at a follow-up meeting by Beverly and Olga that the new participants should be invited to the August meeting so they can all be introduced and hear everyone's story at the same time.
 - There was no Caregivers Luncheon in July due to Summer Celebration.

Grief Support:

- **Transforming Grief:** The fall series of the Transforming Grief program is scheduled for August 19 – October 7 on Wednesdays from 4-5:30pm. Facilitators will be Marsha Hartsell and Beverly Fluke.
- **The Widows Connection:** The Widows Connection group meets for lunch and fellowship on the third Thursday of each month. 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:

- MDPC hosted a blood drive here on Sunday, June 14, from 10:00 am - 02:30 pm. Many thanks to Debbie Cordell for her coordination of this event that was facilitated by Gulf Coast Regional Blood Center.

Community Relations:

- **Family Impact Project:** September 12, 2026/A Day of Service - A new initiative that will unite MDPC congregational families with others in the congregation who need some extra help in and around their homes. Contact Community Relations Deacon, Ross Purdy, or Christine Gentil for more information.

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 Beth Case.

Home Visitation:

- The Home Visitation team currently has 13 active members who stay in contact with one of more of 27 people who can no longer regularly make it to church. The abilities of those visited range from bedridden with conditions such as dementia to conversational and eager to socialize over a meal together.
- If you have a caring heart for our older members, this would be a wonderful ministry in which to get involved. Please contact Rosemary Armstrong, Visitation Deacon, or Beverly Fluke if you would like to join the team or learn more about this ministry.

Memorial Services:

- June: 3 memorial services with receptions were hosted at MDPC.
- July: 2 memorial services with receptions were hosted at MDPC.

Prayer Ministry:

- Staff Prayer – Did you know the staff continues to meet twice weekly for prayer? Leadership rotates for this time which is usually hosted in the Amphitheater from 11:15-11:30am on Tuesdays and Thursdays. Exceptions happen especially as monthly we have all staff worship in the Chapel on Mondays with Session meetings. Throughout the summer, we've prayed for various mission trips, Summer Celebration, current world events, each other, and more!

Second Family:

- CarePartners' Senior Prom was hosted by Caring Ministries at MDPC in June and it was a HIT, despite the bad weather! There were close to 80 people in attendance. Gigi Gomez from CarePartners organized the event and volunteers from MDPC's Gathering Place and Second Family helped out. The theme was Old Hollywood Glam and Warren Ward even brought his shiny red Corvette as a photo prop.
- All of our care receivers are very grateful for support and friendship. One MDPC member reached out for help a year ago. Due to her illnesses, she had not been connected at MDPC for several years. Once the Second Family team started taking her to dialysis appointments, she felt connected

again. She is praying to be eligible for a Kidney transplant so she can start volunteering at MDPC when it is possible.

- Sadly, one of our care receivers recently died. Her dedicated Second Family team was at her side through several transitions and finally hospice care. Her favorite caregiver was Niko the therapy dog but she deeply appreciated the human caregivers as well.

Senior Adult Ministry: Here is a summary of attendance at the various Senior Adult Fellowship activities in June and July.

- June

○ Prime Timers	Heaven Is For Real movie	11
○ Venturers	Fratelli's Dinner	21
○ Adults 55+ Lunch	MDPC Cafe	10
○ Encore Fellowship	Saltgrass Dinner	25
○ Games Day	MDPC	16
- July

○ Prime Timers	Inside Out movie	10
○ Prime Timers	Angels in the Outfield movie	25
○ Adults 55+ Lunch	MDPC Café	12
○ Encore Fellowship	Carrabba's	34
○ Games Day	MDPC	13

Stephen Ministry:

- The Stephen Ministry team met on June 9, July 28, and August 11 for Supervisory Meetings and on June 23 for Continuing Education, with Cynthia Orme presenting "Attachment Theories and Styles."
- Stephen Ministry was highlighted in all three worship services on June 7 and several of the recently commissioned Stephen Ministers have already been matched with Care Receivers.
- Referrals for potential care receivers who would benefit from a Stephen Ministry relationship can be sent to Beverly Fluke in Caring Ministries.

Upcoming Meetings: October 20, 2026, at 10am

Closing Prayer: Christine Gentil and Annette Erickson

Children's Committee Minutes:

Tuesday, September 1, 2026

Devotional

Elementary Update:

Kick Off Sunday 96 children attended @ 9:45 and 42 children @ 11:15. Blast Off begins September 16 and ends November 11. We still need 1-2 more volunteers for Blast Off (20 children are registered, but more will sign up.) Faith Walk is Wednesday, November 18 from 5:30-7:30 (First Communion retreat.) It will be different this year, as we are adding more of a teaching component to the retreat. The goal is to understand the sacraments more fully. Registration is open for First communion November 29. 3rd Grade Bible retreat is November 1, and the Bible presentation November 8.

Preschool Update:

At kick off weekend 47 children attended @ 9:45 and 12 attended @11:15. We have 32 volunteers, but are still looking for 2 more. Preschool has more volunteers registered than this time last year. Worship is going

great, Lenora is using a puppet and the children love it. We are still looking for more musical help during worship time. Chapel has started at LS and YS and we are still using same curriculum but simplified for LS. Preschool is testing a new curriculum until December, then will decide whether or not to keep using it. Glaucia is helping Lenora prepare for Sundays. The desk rotation schedule with Deacon and Elder is working well.

September 19: superhero day

Childcare Plus Update:

The next PNO is September 12, with 83 kids currently registered. Mimi is struggling with finding staff. She currently has 20 staff and, needs at least 2 more.

MOM Co will kick off next Thursday (10th). 25 kids are signed up but more will show. Mimi is looking for more coverage for those events. We are Happy with new curriculum because it's very visual.

Kaleidoscope Update:

Moms Book Club starts September 15. Ignite starts September 16, looking for some teen volunteers to help. PNO is September 11 for younger children. October 16-18 is Family Camp, which celebrates its 10TH anniversary. Kaleidoscope has 5-6 kids regularly attending during services.

LS/YS: no update

Fuente: no update

BPC

10 children are coming on Sundays. There are 10 volunteers on a rotating schedule. BPS is trying a new curriculum that spans different ages. There is only 1 class because of small numbers. Lenora will announce 3rd grade Bibles and 1st communion information to the BPC congregation.

Deacon Committee Minutes:

MDPC Deacon's Meeting

More Care, for more people, in more ways

August 9, 2026 - 12:30-2:00pm. - Room 102

Attendees:

Rosemary Armstrong	Terral Cesak	Willie Jordan	Trey McAfee
Olga Griffin	Bob Larson	Harry Tallichet	Mary Chris Peterson
Betsy Nash	Mario Porras	Christine Gentil	
John LaCarter	Suzanne Tobin	Ross Purdy	

Unable to attend:

Beth Case	Betsy Chalmers	Beverly Fluke	Maria Galvan
Rodrigo Grassano	Edneia Moreira	Barbara Mueller	Nancy Powell
David Kemper	Sarah Kilgore	Sue Warren	

1.) Welcome & Blessing of Lunch: (Bob Larson)

2) Devotional (Harry Tallichet)

3.) Session Reports for May & June (Bob Larson)

- A. In May, Bob gave a report on the Ministry of the Deacons.
- B. Treasurer's Report – Revenue for June 26 was greater than budgeted.
- C. 20 new members were received in June. Mario reported that Fuente also received 14 new members.
- D. Pastor Alf & Shari had airline delays/cancellations in June and were reminded of the power of hospitality by the kindness of others. Reminder that hospitality is our church's mission this year. Examples of welcome were shared by some members.
- E. In the year 2030, MDPC will be celebrating 75 years of ministry.
- F. Meetings are being held for all services to collect input on the master plan.
- G. Fundraising will be initiated in the future.

3.) Opportunities for Worship and Service

- A. Terral mentioned that Prayer in Schools usually occurs around this time of year, but we will hold off on it until Beth returns. Ross reported that "See You at the Pole" (at area schools) occurs on September 23rd this year.
- B. Ross explained about the "soft opening" for Families serving Families which will occur Saturday, September 12th. This is an opportunity for members to serve as a family and for members needing light to moderate services to make those requests known. The MDPC website has more information.
- C. Terral made a motion that the August 2027 meeting be held after school starts. The motion was seconded by a member.
- D. Index cards were passed out so that board members could make prayer request. These are listed on the accompanying page.

4.) Closing Prayers were done in triads.

****Next meeting: September 13, 2027**

Respectfully submitted by Terral Cesak on August 17, 2026

Finance Committee Minutes:

August 2026:

Finance Meeting: called to order at 5:15 pm on August 17th in Summit Room

The meeting was recorded on MDPC's Teams System

Attendance

Member	Office	Attending	Absent
Marcus Vajdos	Chief Operating Officer	x	
Dena Bankett	Finance Director		x
Joe Stockdale	Clerk of Session	x	
Madison Limbacher	Personnel Elder	x	
Chris Arend	2025 Retiring Treasurer	x	
Kyle Wienert	Treasurer	x	
Rosy Pereira	Treasurer Elect	x	
Karin Tyson	Treasurer Elect-Elect	x	
Jeannie Able	Generosity Elder		x
Marc Laney Sharon Roark	Outreach Rep.	x	
Dan English	At Large	x	

Marcelo Pinheiro	At Large		x
Bill Enzer	At Large	x	

Opening Devotional: provided by Chris Arend

Approval of Minutes

(Found in Teams; Finance Committee; Minutes: 2026 Minutes)

- The June Meeting minutes were _x approved _ disapproved _ deferred

MDPC Finance: Budget, Reserves & Capital Campaign

The meeting reviewed stewardship and capital giving, year-to-date operating performance, conference cost controls, capital campaign financing, reserve policy, procurement, and a potential restricted-stock donation.

Discussion:

Giving and Stewardship:

Annual stewardship pledges were distinguished from the capital campaign: stewardship is generally funded from annual income, while capital giving is an optional offering from an individual's asset base and should not reduce the regular pledge. The 3 Ts—time, talent, and treasure—were reaffirmed as resources that will be increasingly important as the church grows.

Budget and Cash Flow:

Through July, contributions were reported as \$585,000 ahead of budget. Sports and REACH revenue was lower because three programs now remit 20% after collection rather than the church recording gross revenue and instructor expenses; enrollment remains generally sound, and the year-over-year effect was approximately \$50,000 unfavorable but expected to normalize by year-end. Lower REACH expenses reflect the same accounting change. Pastoral expenses were under \$50,000, while support ministry expenses were \$86,000 over budget; facilities incurred concentrated HVAC and repair costs, and Communications exceeded its part-time labor allocation. Program expenses were reported \$35,000 over budget, with a commitment to remain within the approved budget and evaluate programs for possible sunset.

The operating budget is \$14.7 million. Each 1% compensation increase represents approximately \$50,000, while the capital-expenditure maintenance allocation is \$50,000; benefits and other costs are rising. Results were also reported as \$469,000 better than budget, with approximately \$700,000 nearing approval; the context of the latter figure was not fully specified. Cash flow typically reaches its low point in September or October, and the meeting referenced approximately \$500,000 currently below cash-flow expectations and a potential annual trough near \$1 million.

Events and Outreach Costs:

The upcoming three-day conference is expected to have approximately 250 attendees paying a \$150 registration fee, but the host church generally absorbs security, facilities, housekeeping, HVAC, electricity, setup, and media costs. MDPC does not generally charge organizations such as BSF for facility use. The committee agreed that conferences and other outside events require advance cost estimates, ownership of the budget, and a decision on whether the cost is reimbursed, budgeted as outreach, or treated as a strategic community/brand investment. Media labor is a significant variable cost. A standardized request and approval process, potentially including volunteer support, was recommended; no final policy was adopted.

Capital Campaign and Financing:

The master-plan process is entering a lead-gift phase targeting 60%–70% of the amount ultimately required. Building scope remains contingent on fundraising results. A future construction note or other construction financing may be needed; MDPC currently has no debt and maintains a \$500,000 line with Frost. Frost has completed preliminary credit review, but multiple construction-lending options should be evaluated. Architects, the builder's representative, and GenerosityOS are expected at the next session meeting. Banker and construction-financing contacts were requested, with an objective of having initial information in place by early the following week.

Reserves:

In December 2020–2021, session approved a \$650,000 outreach reserve intended as a shortfall hedge and repayable if borrowed. The applicable formula indicates a reserve of \$771,000 by the end of 2026. Year-end 2023–2024 information showed a \$10.6 million operating-fund balance, \$665,000 in the outreach fund after reclassifications, \$16.5 million of cash, \$14.1 million restricted, and approximately \$2.5 million unrestricted and available. A proposal to bring the outreach reserve to \$771,000 and establish an equal operating reserve in TPF money-market accounts earning approximately 4.5%–5% was discussed. The proposal was tabled for further review; session approval is required before changing the mandate or restrictions. The committee also debated whether existing outreach reserves should support seasonal cash flow rather than creating a separate operating reserve.

The Name Storm reserve was discussed in connection with a \$25 million exposure and a 10% deductible, with a target referenced variously as approximately \$2.5 million to \$2.7 million. Additions were described as discretionary rather than a formal session requirement.

Procurement and Technology:

Computer purchases are being held while procurement controls are reviewed. The current replacement cycle is three years, with one computer generally expected per employee; an additional computer would be paid for by the employee. Printer and copier leases have been cancelled, and six proposals are under review. The 25% allocation discussion was deferred to next month.

Restricted Stock Gift:

A potential donor wishes to contribute company stock subject to a six-month restriction from the time it leaves the donor's account. The donor is exploring an attorney-drafted arrangement that could permit liquidation after 60 days; otherwise, the gift may be delayed until the following year. MDPC's policy requires sale within a reasonably prompt period, but the committee noted that an imposed restriction may affect what is reasonable. Receiving stock at fair market value and later selling at a lower value could create a realized accounting loss and budget variance. No formal exception or acceptance motion was made; the matter will be evaluated after the donor provides complete employer, legal, and timing details.

Internal Action Items:

- Review the restricted-stock gift terms, employer restrictions, timing, valuation, and accounting implications if the donation proceeds.
- Continue evaluating whether the gift-acceptance and reserve procedures require revisions after the committee's further discussion.

Action Items:

- Bring the outreach reserve to the session-mandated \$771,000 level and revisit reserve structure and repayment restrictions with session.
- Develop advance budgeting and approval procedures for conferences and outside events, including media, security, facilities, and volunteer requirements.
- Attend the next session meeting with the architects, builder's representative, and Generosity OS; identify banker and construction-lending contacts.
- Continue obtaining legal and employer documentation for the proposed restricted-stock gift.
- Resume discussion of the 25% allocation at the next meeting

Fuente Committee Minutes:

August 16, 2026

Fuente MDPC Vision

"We are a multicultural and diverse family, united in God's love to share faith in Jesus Christ, reach souls, and serve with commitment and love, according to God's Word."

Fuente MDPC Mission

"To reach the Hispanic/Latino community of Houston for Christ, transforming lives through the power of the Gospel and serving as a united family in God's love, committed to discipling and raising generations who live out and reflect faith in Jesus Christ."

Key Verse

"I appeal to you, brothers and sisters, in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ, that all of you agree with one another in what you say and that there be no divisions among you, but that you be perfectly united in mind and thought." 1Cor. 1:10

Attendance: Pastor Guillermo Yela, Ciria Yela, Yvonne Ramirez (Elder), Mary Galvan (Deacon), Mario Porras (Deacon), Daniel Chavez, Marina Porras, Nubia Olvera, Gleide Avila, Brenda Vega, Willman Parraci y Diana Orozco

Absent (Excused): Stefano Lugo, Jenny Rodriguez, Rev. Damaris Abreu

- Opening Prayer / Devotional – Pastor Guillermo
 - Considering that we have reached the halfway point of the year, Pastor Guillermo proposed conducting a check-in/follow-up with the different ministries to evaluate how we have progressed so far. He encouraged everyone to review the goals established last year and assess the progress made in each ministry. Pastor Guillermo also recognized the growth we have experienced across the different ministries and highlighted the opportunity to continue growing and strengthening our work as a church.
- Strategy – Pastor Guillermo
 - Mission trip - UNICAS: During the month of October, Pastor Guillermo will be traveling to Guatemala on a mission trip. As part of the trip, he will take the opportunity to visit UNICAS, an organization focused on the holistic development of women and girls through training, leadership development, and family support.

UNICAS has several programs, including one focused on providing assistance to women, mothers, and guardians at the city's Hematology-Oncology Hospital. This program has received support from Fuente over the past several years. However, Pastor Guillermo would like this support to transition under MDPC Outreach moving forward. As part of **this process, a visit to the organization** is considered necessary

A virtual meeting has already been held with representatives from ÚNICAS, with leaders from MDPC Outreach also participating. The next step will be an in-person visit to the organization during the trip to Guatemala. Pastor Guillermo extended an invitation to Stefano to accompany him on this trip.

- Proposal - Tiempo con Dios 2027: The proposal is to hold a congregational weekend during one of the first two months of 2027 at the Fuente MDPC facilities, providing an opportunity to begin the year by seeking the Lord's direction together. The event would include times of worship, teaching, prayer, and family fellowship, involving the different church ministries and serving as a first step toward the vision of a family retreat in 2028.
 - Motion Approved.
 - We will continue working on the details of this retreat during the Committee Retreat.
- Committee / Ministry Reports:
 - Ministry reports – Attached document
 - Noche de Sabor (“Night of Flavor”): The need to encourage greater participation and motivate people to bring dishes was discussed. It was agreed that each leader will help coordinate the dishes by country; for example, those from Mexico will coordinate the dishes representing that country, and so on. Nubia will be informed of who will be bringing the different dishes so that she can follow up and coordinate as needed. The following areas of support were also identified:
 1. Decorations: A group of volunteers is needed to help with decorations on Friday.
 2. Before the event: At least three people are needed to arrive early to assist with the distribution and preparation of the trays, as well as to keep track of those arriving with food and direct them to the appropriate areas.
 3. During the event: Ushers are needed to welcome and receive guests.
 4. Cleanup after the event: The more people who participate in this group, the better, so that cleanup can be completed more quickly.
 - Discuss Actions (if applicable): Gleide presented a proposal for prevention and response to the emergency situations that have recently arisen at the church (details included in her report). It was agreed that the process established by MDPC for handling emergency situations should be confirmed to ensure that the church's protocol is followed in the event of any emergency.
 - Activity Evaluation:
 - Back to School – July 25 (Included as part of the ministry reports)
 - Summer Activities (Children and Youth): Alex encouraged the children and youth to go to the movies every Monday. They also spent a weekend at the ranch during the summer. It was a good and blessed summer for the children and youth groups.
- Upcoming Activities
 - Dinner for Four – August 29
 - Noche de Sabor – September 19
 - Upcoming Activities on the Horizon – 2027
 - Fuente's 20th Anniversary – April 24–25, 2027: Daniel reported that the planning team

has met twice to begin coordinating the celebration of Fuente's 20th anniversary. Two special activities are planned for the weekend:

- Saturday – Gala Dinner: A possible program for the event was discussed. The team will be working on a historical overview of Fuente, which will include a compilation of photos and videos to be presented during the celebration. The team is currently determining the number of guests that can be accommodated, as the dinner will be by invitation only.
 - Sunday – Worship Service: A special worship service will be held in the Sanctuary at 2:00 p.m.
- Other
 - Next meeting: 9/27/2026
 - Closing Prayer

Generosity Committee Minutes:

August 12, 2026

Present: Alf Halvorson, Marcus Vajdos, Jeannie Able, Christina Densmore, Ava Caliendo, Hunter Smith, Rosy Pereira, David Michels, Nathan Stedham, Mark Lumpkin

Absent: Allison Cattan, Josh Weber, Steffanie West, Lance Dardis

Ava gave a financial update as well as a report comparing the amounts of giving when the plate is passed in the worship services.

Ava has cleaned up the MDPC mailing list, using AI and Ministry Platform, in attempt to prevent waste of postage fees for the mailing this fall.

Generosity will add a QR code to the fall pledge card. We will also add a working link to the email that will be sent out for commitment Sunday.

We will keep with the same theme as last year, Active Generosity, with a fresh look and updated colors.

The giving / generosity educational video that was made by this committee is now live on YouTube and will be added to the church website under generosity.

We will keep determining the proper pace of AI to help with repetitive tasks that commitment Sunday and pledge cards bring about.

We decided to not have a pledge packet in the upcoming new member weekend, as the fall brings around a new Commitment Sunday and a new pledge card packet.

Sunday, November 1 is Commitment Sunday.

Our next meeting is Wednesday, September 9.

Young Adult Committee Minutes:

September 09 | MDPC YA room | 6:30 – 8:00p

Open: Sally prayed for the meeting and blessed the dinner

Attendees: Zina, Lupe, Nicholas O., Matthew, Sally and Edneia

- Lead-team roles and communication: Matthew represents college/student leadership, Nicholas represents Grow, Lupe represents Connect, and Zina represents Engage. Each leader will gather input from their teams, communicate updates both ways, and keep momentum through group chats, texts, calls, and regular check-ins. Leaders should delegate responsibilities rather than completing all tasks themselves.

- Retreat schedule and responsibilities: The tentative retreat schedule includes Friday check-in/dinner at 6:00 p.m., session one at 8:00 p.m., and after-hours social time around 9:30 p.m.; Saturday breakfast, prayer/devotional time, sessions, lunch, free time, games, dinner, and evening activities; and Sunday packing, breakfast, final session, lunch/debrief, cleanup, and return to MDPC by approximately 3:00 p.m. Connect owns the arrival experience, relational games, meal connection, and inclusion of newer or quieter participants. Grow owns prayer, devotional content, Scripture prompts, reflection, worship/prayer support, and post-session discussion options. Engage owns helping participants connect retreat learning to everyday life, service opportunities, and ongoing participation.

- Retreat theme and session framework: The theme is “In Every Season: Finding Hope in the God Who Is Always at Work.” The four-session arc moves from fall / release to winter/trust, spring/growth, and summer/bearing fruit. The team agreed the content should begin with who God is and how God is present in each season, then help participants reflect on their own lives. The sessions should remain accessible for nonbelievers, new Christians, and mature believers by using clear explanations, practical examples, and enough depth for those who want it.

- Prayer and spiritual formation: Grow will design a guided Saturday prayer experience of about 30 minutes using Scripture, prompts, examples, and optional reflection resources. The team wants the session to be accessible to people who may not know how to pray or may be uncomfortable praying aloud. Options discussed include using the Lord’s Prayer as a model, offering smaller prayer groups and preparing separate handouts so the main booklet does not become too crowded.

- Meals, games, and logistics: Lupe and Edneia are coordinating meals, with food planned around simple preparation and stronger snack coverage than last year. Discussed items include eggs, fruit, bagels, yogurt, sandwiches, frozen taquitos, biscuits, pizza, watermelon, drinks, and late-night snacks. Meal help should remain flexible rather than overly assigned. Connect will plan low-pressure games, including possible Friday get-to-know-you bingo and Saturday games after lunch, while preserving real free time.

- Theme-based activities and atmosphere: The team discussed a Saturday dinner atmosphere connected to the four seasons using table decorations rather than a complicated menu. Activity ideas include individual plant kits and/or communal tree or wall display where participants add leaves, snowflakes, flowers, or fruit throughout the weekend to symbolize release,

trust, growth, and bearing fruit. The preferred direction is to let the display accumulate naturally and visibly across the weekend.

- Registration, supplies, and deadlines: The retreat currently has 16 registered participants, with approximately five more expected and room for about 10 additional people. Leaders should encourage registration by September 21 so booklets, name tags, rides, rooms, and supplies can be planned, though registration will remain open until capacity is reached. Teams should submit one consolidated list of non-food supplies by September 21; food requests will be coordinated separately by Edneia and combined for ordering.

- Upcoming young adult events: The next worship night is September 17 in the sanctuary courtyard, with Melisa and Michael leading worship, a matcha bar from Lupe, light bites, tables, supplies, and social media

promotion. October 8 is tentative for a future worship night; November 12 and December 17 are confirmed worship nights; and Friendsgiving is scheduled for November 21. The Saturday sports social is also an opportunity to welcome participants and connect them to Bible studies, social events, and other next steps.

Follow-up tasks:

- Matthew, Nicholas, Lupe, and Zina: Share the retreat schedule and team responsibilities, gather input from committees/support teams, and bring unresolved feedback back to the lead team.
- Lupe / Connect: Finalize Friday and Saturday after-hours activities, plan low-pressure group games, coordinate inclusion during meals/free time, and send non-food supply needs.
- Nicholas / Grow: Develop the Saturday prayer/devotional session, including structure, leaders, Scripture, prompts, and any handout materials.
- Edneia and Lupe: Finalize food, snacks, breakfast items, drinks, Saturday dinner décor, and related supply needs for ordering.
- Engage, Grow, Connect teams: Decide on the interactive retreat activity, including plant kits, communal tree/wall display, materials, and setup.
- Lupe and Edneia: Support the September 17 worship night with matcha bar, light bites.
- All lead-team members: Encourage retreat registration; submit food and supply requests by September 21 while keeping registration open afterward if space remains.