

## **Combined Minutes of the Session Committees October 2021**

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

**October 18, 2021**

**Attendees:** Jo Ballard, Beth Case, Betsy Chalmers, Judy Ebling, Annette Erickson, Beverly Fluke, Dick Harris, Nancy Kimmey, and Mona Williams

**Not in Attendance:** Karen Austin, Christine Gentil

**Opening Prayer & Devotional:** Beth Case

### **Ministry Reports**

#### **Branches:**

- Branches leadership has transitioned from Norma Porter to Jane Henson, although we are grateful that Norma will stay in the group. Two new volunteers have joined recently and those who are able to meet in person will do so in October.

#### **Gathering Place:**

- An open house scheduled for September 15 had to be cancelled due to heavy rains which knocked out power to MDPC. The open house was rescheduled for October 6. There were 7 CarePartners, 6 caregivers, 7 volunteers, and 4 Caring Ministries staff in attendance for a total of 24.
- Everyone is looking forward to the regular 1<sup>st</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup> Wednesday Gathering meetings resuming on October 20.

#### **Grief Support:**

- **Walking The Mourner's Path:** The fall series of Walking The Mourner's Path that was scheduled for September 23 – November 11 did not begin due to low registrations. Other churches in the area offering the same or similar grief programs have also reported low enrollments. Our WTMP facilitators will be meeting to discuss and brainstorm how to better publicize our grief offerings and to provide support to those grieving losses during these unprecedented times.
- **The Widows Connection:** The Widows Connection group is excited to reconvene after their summer break. They met in September at Judy Stockton's house and came up with a full lineup of social activities for the fall. The next get together will be at El Patio Mexican Restaurant on October 27. Contact Beverly Fluke or Judy Stockton for more details.
- **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 Ministries -- Blood Drives:**

- Our last scheduled blood drive for the year was on Sunday, September 19. It was held in a donor coach by the Scout House. All successful donors received a pair of hero socks!
- We will likely schedule three drives for 2022. Not only does this allow people to give here at MDPC but retains our connection with Gulf Coast Regional Blood Center so that we might be quickly available in case of emergency.

#### **Home Communion:**

- Anyone who is not able to participate in the regularly scheduled communion services on campus is invited to request home communion. Requests can be made by contacting Beth Case or Beverly Fluke or online at [homecommunion.mdpc.org](http://homecommunion.mdpc.org).

### **Memorial Services:**

- There were 5 memorial services at MDPC in the month of September – 1 was held in the Chapel and 4 in the Sanctuary. Four of them included a reception.
- There was 1 inurnment held in the Columbarium.
- There are currently 6 memorial services that have either occurred or will occur in the month of October. Five of them will include a reception.

### **Prayer Ministry:**

- **Partner In Prayer:** October is our annual invitation for people to re-commit to Partner in Prayer. We are aiming for 700 participants this year.
- **Prayer Goal:** The Prayer Goal from 2017 is currently being revised to read something like: “Strengthen the breadth and depth of MDPC’s pillar of prayer by increasing Partner in Prayer participation to 700+ people and by offering two classes or retreats annually to nurture a prayerful life of gratitude, intercession, praise, and contemplation.”
- **Writing Workshop:** Beth Case and Amanda Grace Caldwell are hosting their fourth writing workshop. Entitled “Bright Spots”, this three-week workshop includes a fourth meeting – a field trip – and includes a deeper look at Psalm 139 and a couple of stories in Acts. Participants are noting prayerfully the ways that God’s light shines into the dark corners of our world.

### **Second Family:**

- Second Family volunteers expended **194 hours** in caregiving activities during September—the equivalent of almost 5 forty-hour weeks! The majority of these hours were spent:
  - helping a care partner choose and relocate to an assisted living community. This care partner no longer wished to deal with increasing maintenance issues related to home ownership or cooking, or management of her medications;
  - offering assistance to a care partner to clean out their home in preparation for a move to live with a child;
  - providing respite to the spouse of a care partner with Alzheimer’s disease;
  - assisting a care partner who has selected a retirement community, but needs to get her house cleared out before she can move
- No new care partners were added in September.
- Second Family volunteers are still serving as the deliverers of Mobile Meals.

### **Senior Adult Ministry:**

- **Venturers:** The Venturers met for dinner on October 4 at Fratelli’s Restaurant. The speaker was Scott McClelland, the former Clerk of MDPC session. He currently serves as President of HEB. His topic was “Passionate About Serving the Community”. There were approximately 70 members in attendance. The Venturers next meeting will be November 1. Lisa Pennington will be sharing “How Thanksgiving Came to Be”. She is a descendent of several Mayflower Pilgrims. Contact Bart Henson for more information.
- **Encore Fellowship** will be going to Palazzo’s Italian Bistro for dinner on October 7. There are 38 members on the list to attend. The next gathering for fellowship will be November 13 when they will board an open air bus with historian Mister McKinney for a tour of

downtown Houston. There will be a total of 40 participants on two buses. They will meet later for lunch at The Cadillac Bar. Contact Betsy Chalmers for more information.

- **Prime Timers:** The Primer Timers have several events planned for the fall. They are going to lunch at Ember and Greens on October 19. Then on November 16, they are going to the National Museum of Funeral History where they will visit a wide variety of exhibits on the world's funeral cultures, followed by lunch at Spanish Flowers Mexican Restaurant. Then on December 15, they have reservations at Messina Hof Harvest Green for a special lunch.

#### **Stephen Ministry:**

- Stephen Ministry supervision meetings have been hybrid since late spring, with a mix of in-person and Zoom attendance. A return to all in-person meetings begins in October.
- Beth Case gave a wonderfully interactive Continuing Education talk using art on "Green Pastures, but the Grass is Itchy" on September 21. We look forward to Rachel Poysky speaking to the group in October.
- Plans are being made to offer a new in-person Stephen Minister training class in early 2022. A Lunch and Learn event to raise awareness is scheduled for October 24. Please contact Beverly Fluke or Marsha Timby to learn more about becoming a Stephen Minister or with referrals for care receiver needs.

#### **Visitation and Care Calls:**

- The **Home Visitation** team is glad to be meeting in person again. The volunteers faithfully stay in touch with the homebound members they visit/call and also support one another with prayers.

#### **Other Business:**

- **Deacon Report:** Deacon meeting agendas and minutes can now be found in the Officer Resources section of the MDPC website. We invite you to review them there.
- **Powerful Tools For Caregivers.** This 6-week course for family caregivers will be offered from October 27 – December 8 (10 – 11:30 AM). It will be led by Christine Gentil and Beverly Fluke. Please contact Christine for more information.
- **Blue Christmas:** Save the date for a special Blue Christmas event on December 8. More details to come.

**Benediction and Closing Prayer:** Nancy Kimmey

**Next Elder Meeting: November 8, 2021, at 11:00am**

- Devotional: Betsy Chalmers
- Benediction: Beth Case

#### **Children's Ministries Committee Minutes:**

**October 5, 2021**

**In attendance:** Barbara James, Heather Tackett, Katrina Beltran, Lyndsey Dottavio, Mayra Escamilla, Tara Riebschlaeger, Ashley Plaisance, Rosy de Silva, Mimi Wells, Keri Mosk, Rachel Poysky, Barbara Mueller, Kristy Lancaster, Alicia Boykin, Jennifer Vajdos, Joy Dubinski,.

**Opening Prayer/ Devo:** Kristy shared a devotion that reminded us that our heart is our stabilizer through the turbulence of life.

Upcoming Meeting Schedule:

November 2 – Devotional by Rosy de Silva

December – Devotional by Mimi Wells,

### **Motions for Changes in Registration Fees for Little School and Yellow School**

#### Little School Fee Changes –

Ashley Plaisance made the following motion, approved by Barbara Mueller, Seconded by Barbara James. Motion Carried

- Registration Fee \$325
- Monthly Tuition for 1 day per week \$250.00
- Tuition Late Fee \$30
- Early Bird Fee \$15 per day

#### Yellow School Fee Changes

Tara Riebschlaeger made the following motion, Approved by Joy Dubinski, seconded by Barbara James, Motion Carried

- Registration Fee \$325
- Tuition Late Fee \$30

### **Recent Events:**

Tony Memmel concert was wonderful, inspiring, and fun. Tony shared his music and his message of hard work, determination, and resilience. Even though Tony was born with only one hand he designed his own cast so he could play guitar. We would like him to return for another event

### **Upcoming- Focusing on Making Meaningful Connections**

**New MDPC Kids Original Series\_“Delighted in You”** – We are so **Delighted!!!** about this new series where Mayra Escamilla, Scruffy and special guests will connect with children and help them learn about Jesus’s love for us. Please tune in for new episodes each week.

#### **Yellow School**

New Family Registrations on Nov 19<sup>th</sup>

Halloween Parade

School Pictures and Health Screening (Vision, Hearing, Speech) in October

#### **Little School**

The Annual Fall Book Fair will be on Oct 26<sup>th</sup>-28<sup>th</sup>

School Pictures on Oct 13<sup>th</sup>

#### **Elementary**

- First Communion Retreat was held on Sunday Morning for children and their parents.
- 3<sup>rd</sup> Grade Bibles – 21 Children received their Bibles
- BLAST-OFF (Bible Study for K-5<sup>th</sup>) New electives will be Jiu Jitsu, Weaving and Baking.
- 20 kids enjoyed the Foam Party
- Galaxy Boys NERF Edition Oct 16
- Galaxy Girls event will be on November 12<sup>th</sup>

#### **Nursery**

- 21 Families signed up for Parents Day Out Oct 9<sup>th</sup> 12:30-4:30
- 16 children in nursery during MOPS

## **Preschool**

- Parents Day Out Sat Sept 11<sup>th</sup>
- Preschool Festival Saturday Oct 30<sup>th</sup> 10-11:30 Fellowship Hall - Fun includes Pumpkin Decorating, Train Rides in the parking lot, Photo Booth, Crafts, Service Project (Rice & Beans)

## **BPC**

- Oct 10<sup>th</sup> Kids Day Annual Brazilian Event Celebrating Kids. Worship in the Galaxy, Playtime in the Gym. Need a few volunteers
- December 12<sup>th</sup> 6-7 pm Christmas Program
- December 19<sup>th</sup> Christmas Party

## **Safe Haven/Kaleidoscope**

- We have a new family at Kaleidoscope. They were invited by current MDPC members.
- The first Parents Night Out since COVID shutdown was great. It was wonderful to see the faces of our children, parents and volunteers. The next PNO will be Nov 5<sup>th</sup>.
- We have 47 people registered for Safe Haven family camp.

## **Finance Committee Minutes:**

### **SEPTEMBER 20, 2021**

**Present** – Bert Baker, Marcus Jones, Sandy Smith, Ollie Aldrich, Mary Lee Going, Amy Harrington, John Kemper, David Michels, Joe Quoyeser, Preston Moore, and Dena Bankett.

**Absent** – Marsha Hartsell

The meeting was held via ZOOM, from 5:18 – 6:55 PM.

Amy Harrington opened the meeting with a devotional on one of her favorite verses from the bible, Psalm 46:10: “Be still and know that I am God.” In her life, the verse reminds her to (1) stop striving and (2) surrender to God. We cannot surrender to God unless we hear Him; hearing Him requires stillness. Amy encouraged us to be still as individuals and, as a committee, to bring an intentionality into hearing God, which might require more listening and less talking. (We all agreed and then proceeded to talk for the next hour-and-a-half. Sometimes concepts are easy to articulate but challenging to actualize!)

We approved the minutes of both the June 21<sup>st</sup> and August 16<sup>th</sup> meetings. Motions and seconds to approve were made by Ollie and John for the June minutes and by Ollie and Bert for the August minutes.

### **FINANCIAL REVIEW**

A summary of both Dena’s written analysis and the comments at the meeting itself follows (for the eight-month period ending August 2021):

- The church was \$1M ahead of budget for Total Revenues
- Total Operating Expenses were <\$161K> underbudget
- The combined losses for the two schools were \$19K better than budgeted
- Thus, the church’s overall position was a net income greater than budgeted of \$1.2M
- Cash and equivalents were \$2.5M, down roughly \$1.2M from August of last year, so ~\$250K ahead of last year when factoring out the \$1.45M of PPP money that was in cash last year but is now at the Texas Presbyterian Foundation (“TPF”) this year
- Investments at TPF were \$8.1M compared to \$4.3M last year. This \$3.8M increase is from a combination of the PPP loan (\$1.45M), our 2020 excess of revenues over expenses of

\$1.0M, and generous contributions to Legacy Giving. *[Marcus has asked Dena to prepare an analysis of this increase in TPF funds for the October Finance Committee Meeting.]*

- Accounts payable of \$931K were <\$100K> less than July 2021 and \$462K more than August 2020. The year-over-year increase is due to our holding back 50% of outreach commitment to our ministry partners until Q4 – established in 2021 and not in place in 2020 – and the decrease from July is not material.

The new accounting system for the Little School and Yellow school went live effective August 1, 2021. Throughout August and September, clean-up work was performed to determine what the starting balances were to be for each student as of 09-01-2021. Most of the needed corrections to the accounting records (classifications between deferred revenue accounts and, in some cases, recognition of deferred revenues that had been earned) had been performed at the time of our meeting, but there still was some work to do get the starting balances correct for all accounts. We will likely see some variances in the September income statement and balance sheet that pertain to the school clean-up project but hope that it will be smooth sailing accounting-wise as we move into October.

**THE COMMITTEE REPORTS FOLLOWED:**

**Ad Hoc Data Analytics Project Committee:** Joe presented his second set of findings regarding pledging and contributions. In his second pass, he utilized anonymized household data for monthly contributions. His findings included:

- Pledgers give their pledges, with a consistent rhythm across the year
- In 2020, unpledged gifts rose substantially, and that increase was evident early in the year
- These insights have implications for how we assess the risk of revenue shortfalls during the course of the year. Our analysis in 2022 as we assess budget variances should focus on these three components:
  - Track total pledges vs. prior year
  - Track pledged receipts vs. pledges
  - Track year to year variation in unpledged receipts
- Our analytics systems are not presently set up to do these three comparisons. Spreadsheets or some other application should be developed to analyze the data in these three categories
- Our current processes of spreading budgeted receipts out in the current fiscal year in the same proportion as money has been received in an average of the past four or five years does not simulate the analytics that Joe is recommending. There will be some correlation between the percent of budget for the current year with the actual receipts of prior years, but that correlation lessens as the percentage of unpledged giving goes up
  - For these analyses, unsigned pledge cards are in the “unpledged” category
  - Ava’s reporting of where we stand at any point in time regarding budget-vs-actual does not give us empirical evidence of how we will end up at the end of the year
  - What is needed is a more robust ability to compare pledges received-to-date to pledges made, and a breakdown of how much unpledged income we have received this year versus last year (or the average of the last five years) at the point in time being assessed.
- Joe’s third data dive will look at 2021 monthly data through September and see how closely it correlates to 2019 and 2020 results. The closer the findings, the more strongly we can believe there are correlations we can use for forecasting.

**Personnel Committee:** Amy had no update to report.

**Outreach Committee:** Marsha was attending the September Outreach Committee meeting to start at the same time as our meeting ended, so had nothing to report and could not be on our Zoom gathering.

**Generosity Committee:** Dave Michels reported the following:

1. Covenant Sunday is November 7, 2021
2. "Grateful Hearts" generosity videos will be shown on October 24<sup>th</sup> and 31<sup>st</sup>
3. Alf's 10/31 sermon will be on generosity
4. Generosity Committee representatives will visit adult Sunday school classes in October
5. Pledge cards will be sent out in October
6. The Committee has forged closer ties with the Brazilian church regarding participating in Covenant Sunday (i.e., pledging) and their pastor, Almir Dias, is excited about it as one more touchpoint between them and the English-speaking church

**Capital Projects/AFE Update:** Legacy Giving had circulated a \$10K AFE for new wireless microphone systems for the middle and high school youth areas, which was in the process of being approved by the Legacy Committee Members

**Legacy Giving Update:** No update.

**Other Items:**

1. At the time of our meeting, we were evaluating two audit firms for our 2021 audit work. Subsequent to our meeting, on September 25, 2021, Marcus sent out all three proposals we had received, a summary audit fee comparison, and a recommendation by the Treasurer chain that we retain Blazek & Vetterling (our auditors since 2009) as our audit firm for 2021.
  - a. The committee replied unanimously that they were in consensus on retaining Blazek & Vetterling
  - b. This was the first request for proposal process since 2009. It is not necessary to rebid every year, but RFPs should be done every five years or so. The 2021 Finance Committee recommends to the 2026 Finance Committee that they perform an RFP process, beginning in May or June and selecting the winning firm in August.
2. David Michels asked that the Committee evaluate the establishment of an "Operating Reserve Fund," to be an Unrestricted Session-Designated Fund, to be utilized to honor Outreach Giving and/or retain personnel if we have a year where contributions are below budget. An analogy would be Joseph storing up grain in the seven years of plenty to have on hand for the seven years of drought. The subject will be on our October Agenda.
3. John Kemper had a praise report regarding the \$325K that MDPC had recently given to the Spring Branch Health Center, fully funding the salaries and operating expenses of four persons in a mobile medical unit for one year. This gift was made possible through an anonymous contribution made to Legacy Giving and designated to be directed toward the SBCHC. John's message was that we are literally saving people's lives through the outreach initiatives that our church pursues and funds.

4. Sandy and Dena will continue to work with Willis Johnson of the Investment Committee to fine-tune recommendations on how much cash to keep at Frost, how much to keep in liquid investments at the Texas Presbytery Foundation, and how much to invest in a mixed stock/bond portfolio. This is more an Investment Committee issue than Finance Committee although Finance does have some oversight and/or fiduciary responsibility for the activities of the Investment Committee.

There being no more business, John Kemper closed the meeting in prayer at 6:55 PM.  
Submitted October 16, 2021



E. Marcus Jones, Treasurer

### **Generosity Committee Minutes:**

**September 9, 2021**

**Attending:** Wade Jones, Don Poarch, Alf Halvorson, Dave Steane, Ginny Glass, Mary Lee Going, Kelly Handel, Marcus Jones, Hobert Plunkett, Maureen Singleton, Katie Cooper, David Michels

**Absent:** Ava Caliendo, Sandy Smith

**Opening:** David Michels opened in prayer.

**Minutes:** The minutes from the prior meeting were approved.

### **Generosity Discussion Items:**

Pledge Campaign Video – Covenant Sunday will be November 7. Ginny Glass provided an overview of the planned videos leading up to that Sunday. First, we will show a introduction to generosity and the pledge campaign video on Oct 24<sup>th</sup> which will provide some history and overview of our radical generosity mission. We will need to phrase our practice of dollar for dollar appropriately to illustrate that we are still maintaining the spirit of the original church commitment.

Second, we will show a ministries stories video, with a focus on Street Grace, on Oct 31<sup>st</sup>. That way, the videos for the campaign are shown prior to Covenant Sunday and can be taken in to account as members contemplate their pledges.

Online Recurring Promotion – As we have discussed in the past, there is room to grow this effort. Consistent, evenly spaced donations are helpful for MDPC to confidently cover its commitments (especially to outreach partners). A draft recurring online promotional e-mail was crafted this summer. Ginny agreed to update it to reflect our upgraded website. Once ready, the revised version will be circulated to the committee for a final review. Then, it will be circulated to the church.

Fuente / BPC engagement – Andre Verona (BPC) informed David Michels that BPC is supportive of participating in the upcoming pledge campaign. David and Andre will meet to discuss more of the specifics, especially on materials that might need to be translated ahead of pledge season.



Additionally, Dave Steane continues to coordinate with Almir and Mauricio to encourage their support of these efforts and to offer our assistance.

Sunday School Class Visits – Wade Jones provided an overview of his recommendation to meet with the Sunday school class leaders ahead of our standard practice of meeting with the classes directly. The committee liked the recommendation and agreed it would be helpful. David Michels and Wade will collaborate to organize that meeting.

We also discussed visiting Sunday school classes to discuss upcoming pledge campaign and encourage regular pledgers to continue their practice and to act as ambassadors on behalf of the generosity committee on this topic. An updated list of classes was circulated and was discussed briefly during the meeting. In addition to a couple of corrections, the committee agreed to divide the list and meet with the classes directly. David Michels will work with the committee after the meeting to assign the classes. A script for reference will also be circulated.

MDPC Goals – Dave Steane informed the committee that MDPC's 12 goals are going through a re-assessment after initially being established 5 years ago. Once complete, the goals will be reviewed by session before being presented to the congregation. The committee discussed the Generosity goal and proposed the following (this includes minor edits agreed by the committee via e-mail following the meeting):

***“Foster a culture of Christian generosity through year-round education and encouragement and increase financial pledges and income by five percent annually”***

Officer survey – The committee discussed potentially conducting a survey of church officers on the topic of generosity to gain a better understanding of trends in our church. David Michels will circulate the survey completed by Session a few years ago for the committee's consideration. We will discuss moving forward with a survey at the next committee meeting.

Financial planning from a Christian perspective – We ran out of time to discuss this item, and will progress at the next meeting.

#### **Financial Report:**

As of September 5, we have collected over \$6.6 million, which is about \$840k over our expected income year-to-date. We still have 40% of our total budget to collect. We discussed how to keep donors engaged if they recognized we are ahead of budget. One idea is to discuss specific areas to support, if we end the year favorable to budget. Some examples discussed were Samaritan's Purse, An MDPC General Operating Fund, and additional support for Street Grace.

#### **Other Business:**

No other business was discussed.

**Next Meeting:** Our next meeting will be October 14, 2021.

**Closing:** Alf Halvorson closed the meeting with prayer.

## **Outreach Meeting Minutes:**

October 18, 2021

6:00 PM, MDPC Parlor

**Attended By:** Marsha Hartsell, Amy Delgado, Melissa Peter, Amber Caver, Allison Daughtry, Hobert Plunkett, Ellie Torres, Gerald Bennett, Kelsi McCormack, Kelly Handel.

**Absent:** Oliver Aldrich, Grant Hixon.

**Devotional – Marsha Hartsell:** “The Key to the Missionary’s Devotion” (from My Utmost for his Highest): “...they went forth for His name’s sake...” 3 John 7.

## **Sub-Committee Reports and Approvals**

### ❖ Discipleship and Education (DE - Amber Caver)

- Motion to fund Partners as presented was approved by unanimous voice vote.
  - Camp Blessing \$7,500 No Designation
    - In addition to \$25,000 approved April 2021
  - Faithful Fathering \$5,000 For 2<sup>nd</sup> Person Matching Grant
    - In addition to \$20,000 approved September 2021
  - The Get Together \$5,000 No Designation
    - In addition to \$7,500 approved June 2021
  - Home Encouragement \$5,000 No Designation
    - In addition to \$15,000 approved August 2021
  - Stoney Creek Ranch \$7,500
    - Designated for camper scholarships unless camping season is cancelled then funding will be undesignated.
    - In addition to \$25,000 approved April 2021
  - WorkFaith Connection \$7,500
    - Designated for 5-day Job Search Accelerator Program
    - In addition to \$10,000 approved June 2021

### ❖ Health and Special Needs (HSN - Allison Daughtry)

- Motion to fund Partners as presented was approved by unanimous voice vote.
  - Amazing Place \$25,000 No Designation
  - Joy Ride \$18,000 No Designation
  - Archway Academy \$5,000 Scholarships
    - In addition to \$15,000 approved May 2021
  - Casa El Buen Samaritano \$10,000 No Designation
    - In addition to \$30,000 approved May 2021
  - CanCare \$1,500 No Designation
    - In addition to \$19,000 approved April 2021
  - ECHOS \$5,000 No Designation
    - In addition to \$25,000 approved August 2021
  - His Grace \$3,000 No Designation
    - In addition to \$10,000 approved August 2021
  - Magnificat House \$15,000 No Designation
    - In addition to \$10,000 approved April 2021

### ❖ Children, Family and Housing (CFH - Hobert Plunkett)

- Motion to fund this Partner as presented was approved with one dissenting vote.

- |                     |         |                |
|---------------------|---------|----------------|
| ■ The Woods Project | \$8,000 | No Designation |
|---------------------|---------|----------------|

### Mission Market and Christmas Eve Offering:

- The committee approved by unanimous vote the following list of Partners for use in the Christmas Eve offering, and in the Mission Market.

### Updates - Amy Delgado:

- Over and Above Spending: Amy provided a budget update, noting the potential for significant over and above funds for Outreach, possibly similar levels to last year.
- Steiger funding will be proposed at \$25,000.

**Amy closed the meeting in prayer at approximately 8:40PM.**

Next Meeting is Monday, November 8, 2021, at 6:00 PM in the MDPC Parlor. Gerald has the devotional

## **Worship & Music Committee Minutes:**

October 4, 2021 Meeting

Attendees: Alf Halvorson, Dave Steane, Rachel Poysky, Meliza Gómez, Kathryn White, Ginny Glass, Charlie Giesler, Michael Middleton, Jamie Haskins, Maureen Singleton (Moderator)

### Review of October 3<sup>rd</sup> Worship Services

Pastor Alf's crash course on the law message was excellent; first communion for youth which worked well; the communion video featuring voices from around the world singing Amazing Grace in their languages was outstanding; and Charlie did a great job on the Legacy video. Meliza reported that we did well on time and the longer set at 9:45 worked well even with the added elements of the service. Charlie reported that the media feeds and technology worked well this Sunday. Meliza reported that during the Fuente service in the Chapel, the Facebook live feed only featured her voice and none of the instrumentation. She stated that this has occurred multiple times. Charlie informed the committee that the equipment for the Chapel, which should address some of these issues, is expected to be installed in the near future.

### Upcoming Services

October 10<sup>th</sup> – Two baptisms are scheduled for the 9:45 am service. Pastor Alf reported that the scripture passage planned for that Sunday has been changed.

October 17<sup>th</sup> – Third grade Bibles will be distributed at 9:45 am and 11:15 am to approximately 41 children. The committee discussed the logistics for the children coming to get the Bibles and parents joining them on the chancel. Pastor Rachel will review how many will receive Bibles at each of the two services.

October 24<sup>th</sup> – We are delaying the premiere of the music written based on Psalm 150. Kathryn and Charles are looking at anthems that will work with the sermon that day. There will be a stand alone message this Sunday and a stewardship video. After the 9:45 am service, there will be a congregational meeting (live and on-line) to receive the Nominating Committee's report and vote on new elders, deacons, and nominating committee members. Pastor Dave will work with Ginny and Charlie on logistics for voting by those participating on-line.

### Outdoor Service

The outdoor service on November 21, 2021 has been scheduled for some time. This date is important for the Fuente congregation because this is the week before Thanksgiving, the community is invited to come to services at MDPC, and the food pantry is open for the distribution of food that would carry through the Thanksgiving weekend. Based on past attendance, 200-300 people are expected for that service. Due to COVID and the concern of having so many in close proximity if in the Chapel resulted in planning the outdoor option. Recently, however, circumstances have occurred that prevent members of the MDPC media department from being available to set up on Saturday evening or early enough on Sunday morning to be ready for the 8:30 am service on that Sunday. The committee discussed several options.

If the budget would permit, the preferred option would be to hire a third party company experienced in outdoor events such as this to produce and operate their equipment for the 8:30 am and 9:45 am English language services and the Fuente service at 11:15 am. This also could provide the MDPC media group with experience with an experienced provider to assist in planning for the outdoor service on Christmas Eve. Michael and Charlie will follow up with potential vendors and get pricing. Other options discussed included a more simple service for each of the three planned for outdoors (acoustic and no power) and having the 8:30 am and 9:45 am English language services in the sanctuary with the Fuente service outdoors giving the MDPC media group time to set up for the Fuente service. There are quality issues with the first option and logistical issues with the second.

A decision will be made on which option will be implemented upon review of the pricing received by Michael and Charlie.

Pastor Dave closed us in prayer.

## **Young Adult Ministries Minutes:**

SUNDAY, OCTOBER 4 – MDPC

Members Present: Mariel Braun, Jordyn Emmert, Kaitlin Mueller, Nick Mueller, Connor Smith, Emily Smith, Beth Case, Rachel Poysky, Sharon Johnson

1. Beth blessed our lunch and opened the meeting with prayer.
2. Our lunch discussion was responding to this statement: Since entering into a relationship with Jesus, I have changed from \_\_\_\_\_ to \_\_\_\_\_.
3. Ministry discussion
  - a. Rachel gave an update about the YA Director search and the group discussed the YA demographics and sub-groups and how to identify “Young Adults”.
  - b. We decided that our meetings will move to the first Sunday of the month and will be 1½ hours with lunch provided.
  - c. Why are we here? Why does the YA Lead Team exist? The committee discussed these questions and determined that this team exists for MDPC members or those who attend MDPC. We discussed the need to measure growth in the program of the MDPC members.
  - d. What do you, the Young Adult Lead Team members, need? The goal of this group is discipleship, connections with other YAs outside Sunday morning, advisory, and planning service projects and social events.
    - i. The team decided to restart the Gathering before the 11:15 Sunday School classes All YA classes will gather @ 10:55 for fellowship and announcements. Tacos will be served again beginning Sunday, October 10. Mariel will check with Brett to see if he can come for Tacos and Brett on Sunday, October 10.
    - ii. Sarah’s outing with First Pres was cancelled so Connor and Emily are hosting a game night at their house on Saturday, October 16 at 6 pm.
  - e. The team discussed a Christmas party. Beth shared that she has received comments about concern for spacing. We discussed a tentative plan at the Mueller’s home. Rachel suggested participating in the Family Christmas Festival as a service project and dinner with the group at a nearby MDPC-owned restaurant afterwards. The festival is Sunday, Dec. 5 from 4-6 pm. The group would have a project booth with suggestions provided by the Children’s Ministry staff. Dinner would be at 6:30 pm.
4. Additional new business
  - a. Jordyn presented the need that Houston Welcomes Refugees has for donated items to give to refugees. She discussed the different boxes and the ease that collecting the items could be. The team discussed making this an on-going project through the year. The plan is to begin collecting for November.
5. Beth closed us with prayer time for each other & the ministry.

Respectfully submitted,  
Sharon Johnson, Elder for Young Adults