

MINUTES OF THE STATED MEETING OF THE SESSION
Memorial Drive Presbyterian Church
September 27, 2021

- Elders Present:** Oliver Aldrich, Owen Anglum, Gerald Bennett, Erin Bounds, Amber Caver, Marty Chapman, Joy Dubinski, Mary Lee Going, Kelly Handel, Amy Harrington, Dick Harris, Marsha Hartsell, Jamie Haskins, Barbara James, Sharon Johnson, Wade Jones, Marcus Jones, John Kemper, Nancy Kimmey, David Michels, Barbara Mueller, David Nelson, Eddie Perdomo, Hobert Plunkett, Mario Porras, Mike Reily, Malinn Saxe, Amanda Seiler, Maureen Singleton, Sandy Smith, Jim Stinson, Ellie Torres, Xavier Trevino, Jennifer Vajdos
- Elders Absent:** Paul Cesak, Betsy Chalmers, Katie Cooper, Allison Daughtry, Bucky Farrow, Grant Hixon, Mickey Peters, Heather Tackett
- Elders Excused:** Don Poarch
- Pastors Present:** Dan Aikins, Beth Case, Mauricio Chacon, Alf Halvorson, Brett Hurst, Mickey Peters, Rachel Poysky, Dave Steane
- Other Staff Present:** Dena Banket, Amy Delgado, Beverly Fluke, Meliza Gomez, Melissa Peter, Jennifer Vajdos, Kathryn White

CALL TO ORDER: Dave Steane called the meeting of the Session of Memorial Drive Presbyterian Church to order at 6:32 pm in the Amphitheater and via Zoom video conference. He opened the meeting in prayer.

ROLL CALL & QUORUM: The Clerk of Session, Mary Lee Going, affirmed that a quorum was present.

NEW MEMBERS: Maruicio Chacon invited the candidates, all from our Fuente congregation and from Venezuela!, to introduce themselves and tell Session why they were attracted to MDPC. Dave Steane expressed that he wanted MDPC to be a place that feels like home and where you can “take your shoes off”. Dave, with the help of Mauricio Chacon, then asked the candidates to affirm their belief in Jesus Christ as Savior and Lord, that they would be His disciples and commit themselves to active membership here at MDPC. Dave then asked for the motion listed below, which was made and seconded. The motion was approved unanimously and with great joy. Mauricio then prayed for these new friends and then Dave dismissed them with the invitation to remain for the rest of the meeting. Dave stated how great it is to see Fuente flourishing and thriving!

Motion: *To accept the following candidates as Covenant Partners of MDPC:*

Richard Bolaño, Moraima Briceño, Mauricio Henríquez, Raciél Henríquez, Giselle Maggiorani, Mario Rivas, Mia Robles, Angelly Silva, Luis Simancas, Dayana Tachón, Mervis Zavala

VISION & GOALS:

This fall we have been in our Better Together Sermon Series. There are things that can derail togetherness. Exhaustion makes us not want to commit to community or connection or to each other. The other thing that can derail us is our baggage and it can prevent us from seeking emotional intimacy. There is a concept in psychology, Attachment Theory, that says we are shaped from the ages of 0-16. These blessings and/or wounds from our

family of origin shape us profoundly for the rest of our lives. They allow us to attach easily or they can cause obstacles. Alf walked us through this theory using blocks. He ended with these words and closed in prayer.

You are God's beloved. A son or daughter of the King. You are Valued.

Unless we truly grasp this we can't be the leader MDPC needs. Unless we model this as a church we can't be the place where people are looking for deep and profound community.

CLERK'S REPORT:

For the Clerk's Report, Mary Lee spoke about the Presbytery Meeting on September 17, 2021 where ECO Synod Exec Dana Allin spoke about the upcoming National Gathering entitled "Overflow". He also talked about the Flourishing Institute and the church planting contact Luke Parker. At the business meeting, we voted on people to fill commissions and councils. She noted that Rachel Poysky was elected to the Permanent Judicial Commission Class of 2027. The meeting closed with shared updates that included 1) the need to get college kids involved in a church near their campuses, 2) good report from the Church Transformation Meeting in Denver, and 3) reports from the Portuguese & English church plant in Austin and the Kingdom Story Fellowship church plant in north Houston.

Mary Lee also mentioned that Jennifer will be sending out information on the National Gathering 2022 for Session members to pray about their participation as commissioners and sign up. Commissioners will be elected at our October Session meeting.

Dave spoke briefly on plans for the Congregational Meeting on October 24th.

TREASURER'S REPORT:

REVENUES

With **\$7.1M** in total revenues, we were **\$1.0M** ahead of budget for the eight months ending August 31st. We were a little more than **\$200K** ahead of August 31st of last year, which is very comforting because last year was a banner year for the church and it looks as though we are tracking well in comparison.

Not reflected here on the slide, we were approximately \$667K ahead of budget for year-to-date contributions as of this afternoon.

EXPENSES

On the expense side of the ledger, our year-to-date Operating Expenses were **\$7.6M**, which is **<\$161K>** below budget of **\$7.8M** for the eight months ending August 31st. The Ministry Operating expense shortfall of **<\$146K>** is composed primarily of personnel vacancies (some now filled, some continuing) and facilities and utilities expenses being less than budgeted. Our outreach expenditures were **\$15K** ahead of budget at August 31st, and our insurance and legal were **<\$29K>** under budget, so our churchwide expenses were **<\$161K>** less than budgeted, systemwide through August.

The Little School and **The Yellow School** showed a combined loss of **<\$110K>** for the eight months ending August. This result is **\$19K** better than the budgeted **<\$129K>** of net loss we anticipated for this period. As I reported last month, the installation of the new accounting system in July identified a number of accounts where parents owed us money for prior periods. The cleanup efforts of both the schools' admins and the accounting department resulted in the collection of significant amounts of these past due tuition payments in August, reducing the loss shown for the earlier portion of 2021. We likely will experience more of this cleanup effect in September, and hope that this cleanup project is substantively complete by the end of this month. When taking the year-to-date revenue, expense, and school variances all into consideration, we had a positive budget variance of about **\$1.2M** for the eight months ending August 2021. And, I think we are well positioned for the remainder of 2021.

BALANCE SHEET

September 2021

On to the balance sheet – you will notice our liquidity remains solid. Unrestricted cash equivalents of **\$4.6M** were up **\$363K** from the **\$4.3M** we had at August 31, 2020. On the liability side, Accounts Payable of **\$931K** were up **\$462K** from the same period last year, the result of us now holding 50% of our outreach authorizations until closer to year end, funding only half of what Outreach and then Session approves in the month of approval.

Does anyone have any questions on the Financial Statements?

AUDIT FIRM SELECTION

The Finance Committee this weekend selected Blazek & Vetterling, which I will hereafter refer to as “B&Z,” to be our Independent Audit Firm for the year ending December 31, 2021. B&Z has been our audit firm since 2009, and we have been pleased with their service, but it is good business practice to get bids from several CPA firms every five years or so. This process was frankly long overdue.

We requested proposals from four firms and received bids from three of them. One firm was 150% higher than the other two, and B&Z and the other firm were proximate in fees. The Committee thought it best for the accounting department to remain with B&Z as we have well-tested experience working with them and understanding their procedures and our requirements to provide them with client-prepared work products for them to audit. I anticipate signing an engagement letter with them within the next ten days. The 2020 Audit was billed to us at \$39,300 and the 2021 Audit is for a proposed fee of \$38,000.

MINISTRY REPORT:

Rachel Poysky gave us an update on Youth/Young Adults. High School and Middle School retreats happened over the weekend. Lizzy Slocum, who assists with 6th grade life group, gave her testimony which was a highlight. It was exciting to see God at work powerfully in these teens. Ministry Architects was here again last week to look further into what we are doing in Youth and what we can do better. Resume finalists were looked at for the Youth Director open position and we are moving on to second level interviews. Two youth are on the search committee and they are awesome! Erin, Paul and Bucky are also part of the committee! Sharon Johnson is doing a great job with Young Adults. We are starting with finding our Director of Youth first and maybe the person has the gifts for both that and the Young Adults Director role. Rachel has met with all the young adult Sunday school classes. Sharon Fox is doing an amazing job with our college ministry. They had a meeting with college parents Thursday about how to reach out to kids on their campuses and how to pray for them. We are working to get organized and get staffing in place! Rachel has also been in communication and planning with other Next Gen pastors for a pre-conference at the ECO national gathering. We are putting a focus on our volunteers and lay leaders and ways to re-engage them after the pandemic. Rachel issued a challenge to each of us in our various ministries/departments to think about two of our key volunteers that are always there. Reach out to them this week via email or phone call and tell them that they are appreciated and that they are important to our ministry. We need to care about the volunteers we have while re-engaging new ones! We have great momentum as a church currently...how can we really engage our volunteers in a powerful way?

OMNIBUS MOTION: Dave Steane introduced the Omnibus Motion and asked if there were any items that needed to be removed for separate consideration. There were no requests to remove items and he asked for a motion to approve the Omnibus Motion. It was moved, seconded and affirmed by unanimous voice vote.

- a. **Motion:** *to approve the minutes of the August 23, 2021 Session meeting as written*
- b. **Motion:** *to call a Congregational Meeting for October 24, 2021, following the 9:45 am service and at the conclusion of the Fuente and Brazilian Presbyterian Church services, for the purpose of electing Officers (Elders & Deacons) and the 2022 Nominating Committee.*
- c. **Outreach Approvals**
Motion: *to approve the below Outreach Partner funding requests for September.*

Consent Agenda items:

1. Partner Funding Recommendations

Designated

• LIFE	\$15,000	
• Urban Outreach	\$40,000	
• Salvation Army	\$30,000	Houston Area Food Program
• Christian Community Service Center	\$4,000	Martha's Way
• Kids' Meals	\$20,000	
• Spring Branch Community Health Center	\$30,000	
• Santa Maria Hostel	\$10,000	
• Child Builders	\$15,000	
• Cornerstone Family Ministries	\$35,000	
• Interfaith Ministries	\$40,000	Meals on Wheels
• Parent Project Muscular Dystrophy	\$10,000	Texas Program
• Easter Seals	\$20,000	Adults with Disabilities Program
• Hope & Healing Center	\$15,000	
• Prayers of the People	\$8,000	Houston Operations
• Open Door Mission	\$49,500	
• Outreach Center of West Houston	\$7,500	
• Rebuilding Together Houston	\$15,000	
• The Source	\$3,000	
• Bridges to Life	\$15,000	
• Faithful Fathering	\$20,000	
• Fellowship in Discipleship (FinD)	\$15,000	
• Fuller Theological Seminary	\$20,000	Texas need-based scholarships
• The Gathering of Men	\$5,000	
• Loving Houston	\$10,000	
• Prison Entrepreneurship Program	\$25,000	
• Young Life	\$50,000	
		\$30,000 for Greater Houston/Emerging Leaders
		\$20,000 for West Houston Multi-ethnic Ministry

Totaling: \$527,000

d. **Motion:** to approve the following baptisms performed in September

Name	Age	Parent's Names	Member Status	Baptism Date
Elizabeth Hazel Limbacher	< 2 yrs	Madison and Andrew Limbacher	Yes	9/12/21
Emily Arden Limbacher	infant	Madison and Andrew Limbacher	Yes	9/12/21

e. **Transfers and Dismissals**

Please transfer the following active members:

BRADLEY, David to Grace Bible Church, Houston, TX

BRADLEY, Melinda (Mindy) to Grace Bible Church, Houston, TX

Please transfer the following baptized members:

BRADLEY, Henry to Grace Bible Church, Houston, TX

ADDITIONAL ANNOUNCEMENTS & BUSINESS:

John Kemper spoke a few words about the wonderful results of the large gift from MDPC to have a dedicated staff to man our Mobile Medical Unit. This week is the first week that we have been able to have had it out 5 days and the results have been remarkable! Presented a slide with photos of the van.

Clay announced Nancy Pearcy event on October 14th. Invited and encouraged us all to register online.

There being no additional business or announcements, Dave asked for a motion to adjourn which was forthcoming, seconded and approved.

PRAYER:

Beth Case led us in prayer time and distributed 21 day prayer campaign Alpha cards. Set an alarm for 11:02 to pray each day. Luke 11:02. Write down the names of individuals that are 1. Hurting 2. Successful. 3. Curious.

We prayed in unison to close the meeting at 7:45 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Mary Lee Going, Clerk of Session

September 2021