

Highlights from the January 2025 Session Meeting

The regular Session meeting was held on January 21, 2024. Devotions were centered on Matthew 13. After opening prayer and devotions, Session received the reports of staff, standing committees, and the Report of the Clerk and voted to approve all reports and items of a routine nature from committees and staff in the Consent Agenda.

- Total attendance figures for December 2024: **841** attended in-person Worship Services and **573** viewed services online. Average Worship attendance for the last several months: December **235**, November 196, October 180, September 163, August 147, July 148, June 147, May 168, April, 227, March 258, February, 226, January 2024, 217; December 2023, 271 Average weekly Worship attendance for 2023 was 193. Average weekly Worship attendance for 2024 is 193.
- **Finance Report** – Elder John Walton, Chair of Finance reviewed the financial statements distributed with the Session packet. This month’s packet includes the final financial statements for the fiscal year ending December 31, 2024. Members of the Session were referred to the Treasurer’s report in the packet distributed prior to this meeting for more detail on the financial statements. Receipts for the month of December 2024 totaled \$96,642 compared to the December 2023 total of \$87,720 (**NOT including transfers from reserves to cover the 2023 deficit**). Total receipts for 2024 stand at \$697,400 versus \$713,593 for year-end 2023. The receipts for 2024 were \$500 over the anticipated budgeted revenue. The average weekly giving in 2024 was \$12,524 based on 53 weeks versus \$11,283 for the same number of weeks in 2023. Great job on the part of the congregation in increasing their contributions for 2024.

Expenses for 2024 were \$672,107 **down 18.2%** from the year-end 2023 figure of \$821,333 and 3.6% under budget. The net income (revenue minus expenses) for 2024 was \$25,293 compared to 2023 which produced a deficit of \$72,582. Great job on the part of staff and committees in keeping the expenses under budget during 2024.

Two motions from the Finance Committee were approved related to the \$25,293 net income generated in 2024. First, the Session **approved** the reimbursement to the Memorial Funds designated fund an amount totaling \$2,390 for a misapplication of those funds in 2024. Second, the Session **approved** the use of the remaining \$22,903 to be used for the one-time 2025 expenses previously explained to the congregation as non-recurring beyond this coming year.

Sandy Campbell reviewed the 2025 Operating Budget with the Session. Pledged giving is up and total revenue is coming in at around \$761,000 with \$799,000 in expenses projected. This is currently producing a deficit of \$37,000 for 2025. More work on the plan will take place this week and an approval will be by a special meeting of Session in early February.

The following actions were **moved** by various elders or committees and **approved** by Session under New Business at this meeting:

- The Outreach and Evangelism committee requested the approval of an Ad Hoc Committee for the establishment of the 175th Anniversary of MPC and a celebration date of Sunday, May 18, 2025.
- Elder Julie Havel moved to establish an Ad Hoc committee to assist in the recognition and celebration of the exceptional service of Rev. Rose Sparrow to MPC on her departure at the end of February. Committee members currently are Julie Havel, chair, Talene Derbabian, Susan Kassab, Art Kalemkarian, Pam Orr, and Janis Richards. Congregation will be informed shortly.
- The Children and the Youth committees requested approval for a Children and Youth Sunday on April 27, 2025, with the 10:00 AM Worship service led entirely by children and youth with the Director of Children and Youth Ministries, Ty Harvey, preaching.
- The Children's committee requested approval for Vacation Bible School to be held from August 4 to August 8, 2025, from 6:00 to 8:00 PM and a VBS Celebration Worship service on Sunday, August 10, 2025, at 10:00 AM.
- The Outreach and Evangelism committee requested the Session approve the annual church picnic for Pentecost Sunday, June 8, 2025.
- The Worship committee requested Session approval for the following special worship services: Ash Wednesday on March 5, 2025, Maundy Thursday (with Communion) on Thursday, April 17, 2025, and Good Friday on April 18, 2025, all three services at 7:00 PM.
- The Session set the Annual Meeting of the Congregation and Corporation for Sunday, March 9, 2025. Immediately following the 10:00 AM Worship service.
- The Youth committee requested Session approve a youth pancake breakfast fundraiser for Sunday, March 16, 2025, following the 10:00 AM Worship service.

- The Pastoral Nominating Committee requested Session approve raising the upper limit of Effective Salary (Cash plus Housing Allowance) for the Senior Pastor's position from \$100,000 to \$105,000. The range previously approved by Session in the Ministry Discernment Profile in July 2024 was between \$85,000 and \$100,000.

Joseph Hare
Clerk of Session