

Highlights from the March 2025 Session Meeting

The regular Session meeting was held on March 18, 2025. In place of devotions this month, Elder Dana Riker Jackson conducted a follow-up activity based on the outcomes of the off-site Officer's Retreat held on February 22, 2025, at the Twin Brook Retreat in Gap, PA. This is a challenging time to be a leader in the church. The exercise dealt with the values that build trust – Acceptance, Openness, Congruence, and Reliability. Small groups of three or four were joined to discuss the various Bible verses that emphasize these values. 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.

Information pulled from Consent Agenda

1. Total attendance figures for February 2025: **460** attended in-person Worship Services and **449** viewed services online. Average Worship attendance for the last several months: February **227**, January 194, December 2024, 235, November 196, October 180, September 163, August 147, July 148, June 147. The average weekly Worship attendance for the year 2024 was 193. Average weekly Worship attendance for 2025 is **210**.
 2. Session approved the use of facilities for the wedding ceremony of Courtney Charlotte Conrad (nm) and Matthew John Lessik (nm) on Saturday, May 24, 2025, at 3:00 PM. Rev. Dr. David Cagle officiating.
 3. Session approved the baptism of Greyson Tyler Southerland on June 29, 2025, infant son of Jennifer (m) and Robert Tyler Southerland (nm), born on November 25, 2024, in Media, PA. Officiant will be our new Pastor.
 4. The following confirmands from 2013 and 2016 have moved and are not attending MPC and were moved to inactive status:
 - a. **Morgan Leigh Kokol, register # 4476 to inactive status**
 - b. **Nicholas Steven Kokol, register # 4541 to inactive status**
- **Finance Report** – Sandy Campbell, Interim Business Administrator delivered the report for John Walton who was traveling.. A review of the financial statements distributed with the Session packet was conducted. Receipts for the month of February 2025 totaled \$56,215 compared to the February 2024 total of \$43,014. Receipts are slightly behind the 2025 budget. Total YTD 2025 revenue is \$109,796 compared to same time last year of \$89,990.

Total expenses for YTD 2025 were \$109,259 producing net income (revenue minus expenses) through February 2025 in the amount of \$536.58.

Sandy also reported that the installation of a new on-line version of QuickBooks is under way at this time. Things are progressing smoothly with little concern about transferring all data. She is also looking for those willing to assist her on Monday or Tuesday mornings with the counting of the Sunday collections. Anyone interested (Elder, Deacon or congregation member) and could devote time during the day should contact Sandy.

- A statement concerning the status of background checks for all who have contact with children at MPC was entered into the minutes by Elder MacLaughlin. “All volunteers, clergy, and staff have completed all the necessary state background checks related to child contact and a procedure is in place to automatically advise those in need of renewal to be so informed before the expiration date of the current background check.”
- A **motion** was made by the Finance Committee requesting Session to accept the \$3,000 gift received this month for the intended purpose of “Spring Landscaping.” A new designated fund will be created, and the Property Committee will have control. The motion was **APPROVED**.
- The Finance Committee **proposed** adding John Wood as Co-Chair of both the Finance Committee and the Investment Subcommittee effective immediately. This will have Elder Wood familiar with the role by the time Elder Walton’s term ends this summer and as a new pastor is potentially starting. The request was **APPROVED**.
- A **motion** was made by the Worship Committee requesting Session to extend an invitation to the Rev. Stuart Spencer, Pastor and Head of Staff of The First Presbyterian Church of Moorestown, NJ to preach at the MPC 175th Anniversary worship service on Sunday, May 18, 2025. The motion was **APPROVED**.
- A **motion** was made by the Worship Committee requesting Session to extend an invitation to the Rev Andy Jacob, Executive Director of Chester Eastside, Inc. to preach at the worship service on Sunday, April 6, 2025. The motion was **APPROVED**.
- A **motion** was made by the Worship Committee requesting Session to extend an invitation to the PNC’s Pastor-Elect, the Reverend Doug Forsberg to preach his candidating sermon at the worship service on Sunday, March 30, 2025. The motion was **APPROVED**.
- The Clerk mentioned he has received communication from Judy Luzak with the organization “Heeding God’s Call to End Gun Violence” to establish a temporary “Memorial to the Lost” on the front lawn of the church. Elder Snead was involved in the first, and only, time this was installed back when Rev. Passante was here. She raised several logistical concerns, and Session referred this matter back to the Mission Committee for further discussion.

- The Outreach Committee seeks Session approval to host a coffee hour before Easter service on Sunday April 20, 2025, at 9am. The committee will utilize the kitchen and Hassler Chapel and Dale Hall. The **request** was **APPROVED**.
- The Outreach Committee seeks Session approval to use the front lawn for a plant sale on April 27 , 2025. The **request** was **APPROVED**.
- The Outreach Committee seeks Session approval to run a water table along the race route of the Media 5 - miler race set for June 20, 2025. The **request** was **APPROVED**.

Joseph Hare
Clerk of Session