

Highlights from the February 2024 Session Meeting

The regular Session meeting was held on February 20, 2024. 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. Items approved included:

- The Outreach and Evangelism Committee requests the use of Hassler Chapel and MPC kitchen for host an extended coffee hour from 9:00-9:45am prior to service on Easter, March 31, 2024.
- The Outreach and Evangelism Committee requests the use of Dale Hale and MPC front lawn for a plant sale on April 21, 2024.
- The Outreach and Evangelism Committee requests the use of MPC front lawn, Dale Hall, and the kitchen for the annual church picnic on June 2, 2024.
- Approve the following changes in membership status:
 1. Jane Carol Whitehead, register # 4496, removed effective December 31, 2023, per her request to Deacon Susan Hare (Church Directory project).

Total Worship attendance figures for January 2024: **394** attended in-person Worship Services and **472** viewed services on-line. Average weekly (both in-person and live streamed) Worship attendance for the last several months: January 2024, **217**; December 2023, 271; November, 181; October, 168; September, 189; August, 159; and July, 160. Average weekly Worship attendance for 2022 was 194. Average weekly Worship attendance for 2023 was **193**.

Request made last month by the Contemporary Music Leader search committee for a revised/simplified job description was **APPROVED** by the Administration Committee.

Finance Report – Elder Sandy Campbell reviewed her comments for the Annual Meeting scheduled for this Sunday (February 25). She also announced that a member of the congregation has agreed to fund the Parish Associate position in order to compensate Rose for a full-time instead of a part-time pay rate during the last six months of the position ending on February 28, 2025.

A **motion** from Finance Committee requesting Session accept a member's donation to cover the difference in the Parish Associate's salary for the period September 1, 2024, through February 28, 2025. This member is willing to donate money to return Rose to a full-time employee for the period of September 1, 2024 – February 28, 2025. The operating budget will pay 50% and this donor will support the other 50%. Funds to be placed into a designated fund

in advance of the action. Motion coming from a committee does not need a second. **Motion** was **APPROVED**.

Elder Campbell has also developed a sheet explaining the various ways members can contribute to the church to help with the budget situation. This will be distributed during the Annual Meeting and available for several weeks in the rear of the sanctuary.

The Clerk requested permission to respond on behalf of Session to members who sent correspondence to Session regarding the budget and staffing model situation. Letter to include statement to the effect that a generous member of the congregation has stepped forward to fund the Parish Associate's position at the full-time rate for the last six months of the position. Letters are to be reviewed by Dr. Cagle before they are sent. Session **APPROVED this request**.

There being no other new business, a **motion** was made and **seconded** to **adjourn** the meeting. **Motion** was **APPROVED** and the meeting was **adjourned** at 7:45 PM. The Moderator closed the meeting with prayer.

Joe Hare, Clerk of Session

Highlights from the March 2024 Session Meeting

The regular Session meeting was held on March 19, 2024. 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. Items approved included:

- The Deacons are requesting the use of Dale Hall on Sunday, May 5, 2024, following worship service to host an event to highlight the committees and volunteer opportunities at MPC.
- The Outreach & Evangelism committee requests permission to have a MPC water table during the Media Five Miler Run to be held on June 21, 2024. The table will be located along the race route at the Gibble household, and the large generic MPC vinyl banner will be hung with the table.

Membership changes:

- Andrew Gross, register #4095, and his wife, Laurie Patterson, register #4094, removed effective this date, per his request to Deacon Susan Hare (Church Directory project).
- Douglas Allen Orr, register #4513, and his wife, Casey Jessica Wood, register #4615, removed effective this date, per their request to Deacon Susan Hare (Church Directory project).
- Constance Hughes, register #3575, removed effective this date, per her request to Deacon Susan Hare (Church Directory project).
- Benjamine Cole Dangerfield, register #4658, removed effective this date, per his request to Deacon Susan Hare (Church Directory project).

Two items were pulled by committee chairs for further discussion. First, Elder Johnson announced that the Youth Pancake Breakfast event held on March 10 raised \$800 and she requested these funds be deposited into designated fund 3025, Youth Ministry Christian Education. The request was **APPROVED**. She also inquired about the guidelines regarding the distribution of scholarship money from account 3585, MPC Scholarship Fund. It was stated by several members of Session that the \$1,000 scholarships were only given to MPC members [youth who were confirmed at MPC]. The Clerk was asked to research the minutes to see if other guidelines were established.

Second, Elder Tutton related the story of the vandalism of the church sign and stated that a contractor has been engaged in the production of a new sign since this is a priority item on the Property Committee's list of projects. Cost will be in the \$4,000 area. We are holding off on an insurance claim since we were informed by our broker that Brotherhood Insurance is in the process of dropping MPC's property/casualty insurance policy we currently hold with them. It seems that since MPC dropped the auto insurance policy due to the sale of the bus and van, it is no longer profitable for them to carry us on the property/casualty insurance. Further discussion is underway and there is a possibility we could secure insurance through the Presbytery (USA).

Pastor Cagle reminded everyone that the 175th Anniversary of MPC's origination will be on March 10, 2025. Some special service and luncheon should be made available to everyone.

Total attendance figures for February 2024: **391** attended in-person Worship Services and **513** viewed services on-line. In addition, Ash Wednesday service had 60 in-person attendance and 77 have viewed on-line. Average weekly (both in-person and live streamed) **Sunday** Worship attendance for the last several months: February, **226**, January 2024, 217, December 2023, 271, November, 181, October, 168; September, 189; August, 159, July, 160. Average weekly Sunday Worship attendance for 2023 was 193. Average weekly Sunday Worship attendance for 2024 is **221**.

Finance Report – Elder Sandy Campbell reviewed the financial statements distributed with the Session packet. Receipts for February 2024 totaled \$46,976 compared to a February 2023 total of \$44,321. Expenses for the two months of 2024 are down 34% from 2023’s first two months. The 2024 deficit is \$8,260 compared to the first two months of 2023 which produced a deficit of \$38,451. This is a result of cost reductions in the salary lines.

Elder Campbell announced that two \$10,000 donations were made this month to the MPC Reserves designated funds account # 3555 and the Capital Reserve designated funds account # 3001. She is working on the creation of a Stock Donation Report form which will facilitate the flow of information on stock donations between our broker and MPC. She is also working on information related to various ways of donating funds to MPC which will be added to the website when completed.

The adjustable-rate mortgage on 8 East Franklin will face an interest rate adjustment in July 2025. Session was also made aware that the mortgage has a ballon component to it which means that at the end of the mortgage term in July 2030 we will face a ballon payment of over \$100,000.

As previously announced to Session, our tenant at 8 East Franklin has given sixty-day notice of vacating the premises on or before April 30. A Property Committee inspection of the property will take place on Thursday, March 28 at Noon. A realtor has been contacted to do a walk-thru during the following week and give recommendations. Session should be prepared for discussion at next month’s meeting regarding sale or continued rental of the property.

It was announced that a donor has stepped forward to fund the Children, Youth and Families Director salary from August to December 2024 which would permit the position to be filled prior to the anticipated January 2025 start date previously developed in the 2025 budget. In light of this, the following motion is presented by the Finance Committee:

Motion from the Finance Committee requesting Session to accept the contribution from a congregant to fund the compensation of the Children, Youth, and Family Director position for a period not greater than five (5) months from August to December 2024. This will permit the hiring for that position to happen prior to the 2025 fiscal year. In addition, the Session hereby directs the Children, Youth, and Family Director search committee to re-commence the search immediately. Motion was **APPROVED**.

A discussion followed on the revision to descriptions of several designated funds as presented in the Finance Committee minutes of this month and attached to these minutes. A **Motion** from the Finance Committee to approve the revisions to the Designated Funds descriptions as presented in the attached forms to the committee's March minutes. Motion was **APPROVED**.

Under New Business:

- A review of the membership rolls (per the Book of Order, G3-0204(a)) has been underway with the Deacons On-Line Directory project. The Clerk presented a list of 24 names of individuals who have not responded to inquiries regarding their information in the directory. The Clerk wanted to identify any who Session may know. Letters will be sent to others asking their status and if nothing is heard back, we will inactivate from the rolls.
- **Motion** from the Worship Committee and the Missions Committee to permit John Clifford, President, and Senior Pastor of the Green House Project (a supported MPC mission partner) to preach at the Sunday, April 28, 2024 Worship service at MPC. Motion was **APPROVED**.
- The Outreach & Evangelism committee offered a **motion** to direct the proceeds from the April 2024 plant sale to be placed into a designated fund for the use of the Outreach committee. Motion was **APPROVED**.
- The Outreach committee moved to request permission for use of facilities for Sunday, May 19, 2024 and Sunday July 28, 2024 from Noon to 2PM in Dale Hall and the kitchen to hold a Craft Party. Two events were held pre-COVID at the church. Deacons Hare and Fetterman will be in charge. Motion was **APPROVED**.

Joe Hare, Clerk of Session

Highlights from the April 2024 Session Meeting

The regular Session meeting was held on April 16, 2024. After opening prayer 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. Items approved included:

- The Spiritual Formation Committee requests use of Kitchen, Dale Hall, Hassler Chapel, room 102, and room 103 for the Womens Day Apart program to be held on Saturday, May 4, 2024, between 9:00 AM and 2:00 PM.

Membership changes:

- Constance Hughes who requested to be removed from rolls last month subsequently requested a transfer of membership to Swarthmore Presbyterian Church, Swarthmore, PA. Effective March 27, 2024.
- Joshua David Hoeffner, register # 4473, remove from the rolls per his mother's request to Elder Cindy McPeak. He has moved to San Diego, CA.
- Michael Joseph Kohute, register # 4157, Christine Marie Kohute, register # 4158, and Hanna Rose Kohute, register # 4475, removed from the rolls per their request to Elder Cindy McPeak.
- Robert Young, register # 3799, and Susan Young, register# 3800, removed from the rolls per their request in email to the MPC office.

A lengthy discussion was undertaken. No straw vote was taken but a consensus formed around keeping the property for a year or so as a rental. Several expressed a desire to sell immediately. A walk through of property by several people with knowledge of the need for repairs was completed in early April. Second walk through by a real estate agent was also completed and it was stated that the rental potential would be around \$3,600 per month and a sale price of between \$800,000 and \$850,000 may be likely. General consensus is that there are no major issues. Biggest problem is with water infiltration in second story by rear window in which the sill is rotted out. Internal plaster work, crack repairs, painting, and a deep cleaning is necessary regardless if we rent or sell. **Motion** was made and **seconded** to ask the Ad Hoc Committee to seek bids to perform the internal repair, plastering, spackling, painting, and deep cleaning. If the bid is under \$35,000 the work is authorized to proceed. Motion to **amend** the amount to \$41,000 **failed** for lack of a second. **Motion** as previously stated was **APPROVED**.

Total attendance figures for March 2024: **747** attended in-person Worship Services and **541** viewed services on-line. In addition, Maundy Thursday and Good Friday services had 33 and 39 in-person attendance respectively, and 34 and 40 were viewed on-line. Average weekly (both in-person and live streamed) **Sunday** Worship attendance for the last several months: March, **258**, February, 226, January 2024, 217; December 2023, 271, November, 181, October, 168; September, 189; August, 159, July, 160. Average weekly Sunday Worship attendance for 2023 was 193. Average weekly Sunday Worship attendance for 2024 is **234**.

Finance Report – Elder Sandy Campbell reviewed the financial statements distributed with the Session packet. Receipts for March 2024 totaled \$75,310 compared to a March 2023 total of \$55,906. Expenses for the first three months of 2024 are down 28% from 2023’s first three months. The surplus finally appeared for the first three months of 2024 in the amount of \$7,844 compared to the first three months of 2023 which produced a deficit of \$50,826. This surplus for 2024 is mostly a result of cost reductions in the salary lines.

An action item from last month’s meeting requested the finance committee to prepare a policy regarding the refund of donations. The policy was submitted for the first reading and will be voted on at next month’s meeting. Only one minor change was added under: 1.a.i. ...in-kind services must be approved by Session and/or the relevant.....

Under New Business:

The Session was informed that the Mission Study is completed and will be forwarded to Session members on April 17. The Moderator called for a Special Meeting of Session for Tuesday, April 23, 2024 at 6:30 PM for the purposes of approving the Mission Study Report and setting a date for a Special Meeting of the Congregation to: receive the Mission Study Report, elect members of the Pastoral Nominating Committee, and elect candidates for the Elder and Deacon Class of 2027.

Joe Hare, Clerk of Session

Highlights from the May 2024 Session Meeting

The regular Session meeting was held on May 21, 2024. 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. Items approved included:

Informational:

1. Total attendance figures for April 2024: **429** attended in-person Worship Services and **477** viewed services on-line. Average **Sunday** Worship attendance for the last several months: April, **227**, March, 258, February, 226, January 2024, 217; December 2023, 271, November, 181, October, 168; September, 189; August, 159, July, 160. Average weekly Sunday Worship attendance for 2023 was 193. Average weekly Sunday Worship attendance for 2024 is **232**.
2. The following electronic votes were conducted by Session:
 - A. On April 22, 2024, a request to conduct a Memorial Service for Julia Ann Reynolds, (nm), on Saturday, May 11, 2024, at 11:00 AM in the Sanctuary. Rev Rose Sparrow officiating. Tally was 17 members voting in the affirmative and one not voting.
 - B. On April 23, 2024, a request for baptisms to be conducted on Sunday, April 28, 2024, at the 10:00 AM Worship Service. Rev. Dr. David Cagle officiating. Those being baptized: August Joseph (AJ) Lardon, IV, an adult, and Elijah Paul Tamulavage-Johnson and Aria Ember Garcia, both minor children of member Laura Tamulavage. Tally was 18 affirmative votes.
 - C. The baptism of Aria Ember Garcia was not conducted on Sunday, April 28, 2024, but will be scheduled for a later date.
3. The Clerk received notification from the Congregational Nominating Committee that Peter Ellis, a member of MPC, was added to the slate of candidates for the Pastoral Nominating Committee which will be elected at the Special Congregational Meeting scheduled for Sunday, May 19, 2024, following the 10:00 AM Worship Service.

Action Items:

1. The following changes in membership status were approved, effective May 21:
 - a. Dr. David Ananthan Chellappa, register # 4286, and his wife Dr. Sheila Chellappa, register # 4287 moved to Doylestown, PA per Deacon Susan Hare on-line directory project.
 - b. Ryan David Helwig, register # 4574, and his wife Alyssa Helwig, register # 4575, request removal from the rolls per Deacon Hare on-line directory project.
 - c. James Hutton Koenig, register # 4447, per his father's request to transfer to inactive status on rolls per Deacon Hare on-line directory project. Has moved out of the area.
 - d. Thomas Jeffrey Koenig, register # 4377, per his father's request to transfer to inactive status on rolls per Deacon Hare on-line directory project. Has moved out of the area.

- e. Robert Skoog, register # 3539, and his wife Lee Skoog, register # 3538 request removal from the rolls in communications with Deacon Belle Patton on-line directory project. Moved out of the area.
 - f. Stephanie Lynn Palmore, register # 4106, requests removal from the rolls. Has not attended for 20 years per Deacon Hare on-line directory project.
2. The following motions from the Worship Committee were approved:
- a. A motion to approve David and Sara Treece as guest preachers on Sunday, June 23, 2024.
 - b. A motion to approve communion to be served each Sunday, at the pastor's discretion, from June 2, 2024, to the end of 2024.

I. Finance Report – Elder Sandy Campbell reviewed the financial statements distributed with the Session packet. Receipts for April 2024 totaled \$52,880 compared to April 2023 total of \$85,911. The disparity in monthly revenue figures is a result of the date when Easter occurred last year versus 2024. Expenses for the first four months of 2024 are down 25% from 2023's first four months. The surplus for the first four months of 2024 is in the amount of \$3,670 compared to the first four months of 2023 which produced a deficit of \$29,524. This surplus for 2024 is mostly a result of cost reductions in the salary lines.

II. Ongoing/Old Business

A. Elder Robyn Smith gave the following update on the Kids Kampus:

The Ad Hoc Committee will continue with a daycare feasibility study; however, the recommendation to Session is that a potential daycare be tabled at this time. The Committee will revisit a potential daycare when either a Pastor or Children's, Youth & Family Director is hired. The Committee believes it is in the best interest for Kids Kampus to remain in their current location if the Presbytery will allow. The Committee will offer to work with Kids Kampus and the Presbytery to advocate remaining in their current location (formerly Trinity Presbyterian Church). The Committee will offer their assistance to Kids Kampus to help identify other leads for Kids Kampus. The Committee will complete their due diligence regarding whether MPC is a viable opportunity for Kids Kampus, or any daycare, after a new Pastor and/or Children's, Youth & Family Director has been hired..

B. Elder Paul Tutton reviewed the status of the search for a new commercial liability insurance policy. Our current carrier has advised us of non-renewal effective mid-June. Only one proposal was offered by Sovereign Insurance Group (through contact from the presbytery). An independent broker was asked to search for a new carrier, but no other insurance company would write a proposal due to our previous claims' history. The current proposal on the table is for approximately the same cost as last year but the deductible is now listed at \$10,000 versus \$2,500 under the old Brotherhood Mutual policy. A **motion** from the Property Committee requests that Elder Tutton be authorized to sign off on the Sovereign Insurance Group proposal with a cost of \$13,094. Questions were raised about the possibility of asking for a reduction in the deductible for 2025 and Elder Tutton has an email from Sovereign stating that that is a possibility. After time

for discussion, the previous question was called and seconded and passed by a 2/3rds majority to end the debate. The **main motion** was then **APPROVED**.

- C. An offer to purchase the property at 8 East Franklin for \$700,000 was received today with a May 31 deadline for acceptance. Elder Kalemkarian briefed Session on the status of talks with Bill Strine of Media Real Estate. He expects to speak with Mr. Strine within the next seven days and will report back via a specially called Session meeting via Zoom if necessary. A **motion** was made by the Ad Hoc Committee to decline the offer and advise the agent that we will get back to them with further information in early June. **Motion** was **APPROVED**. Elder Campbell advised Session that she has spoken to Jim Wagner, Business Administrator of the Presbytery of Philadelphia, regarding the sale and approval by the presbytery should not be an issue but they will want to know how the proceeds are going to be used. A congregational meeting will need to be called for the congregation to approve the concept of the sale of the property and the final Agreement of Sale will be executed by Session through the president and/or secretary of the corporation (MPC).

The policy on gift/donation return was **APPROVED** as distributed.

III. New Business

- A. May 22, 2024 is Ro D'Angelo's last day of employment at MPC and the Finance Committee requests permission to advise via a letter to the Franklin Mint Federal Credit Union that Ms. D'Angelo be removed as a signatory to the bank accounts held at FMFCU. The **motion** was **APPROVED**.
- B. Session discussed and approved a plan to support Rev. Rose's efforts to become certified to serve churches within the Presbytery of Philadelphia.

Joseph Hare
Clerk of Session

Highlights from the June 2024 Session Meeting

The regular Session meeting was held on June 18, 2024. Devotions were centered on the new church mission and vision statement. 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. Items approved included:

Informational:

- Total attendance figures for May 2024: **313** attended in-person Worship Services and **357** viewed services on-line. Average **Sunday** Worship attendance for the last several months: May **168**, April, 227, March, 258, February, 226, January 2024, 217; December 2023, 271, November, 181, October, 168; September, 189; August, 159, July, 160. Average weekly Sunday Worship attendance for 2023 was 193. Average weekly Sunday Worship attendance for 2024 is **219**.
- The following electronic votes were conducted by Session:
Electronic Vote on the sale of 8 East Franklin Street property was requested on June 6, 2024. Two options were presented for a vote:

Ø **Bidder 1** Is a contractor who intends to renovate and flip the house.

Offer \$735,000 All cash and waived inspections. Buyers pay their own Realtor Commission.

Ø **Bidder 2** Is the couple who want to renovate and live in the house.

Offer \$750,000 All cash but wants a building inspection. **Will not use results of the inspection to renegotiate the price.** They want to verify that they have not overlooked anything major and/or onerous. Buyers pay their own Realtor Commission.

Bidder #2 for the highest bid price of \$750,000 was **APPROVED** by a vote of thirteen (13) in the affirmative, one (1) voting no to both offers, and four (4) not voting. It was subsequently announced that the Agreement of Sale has been signed and that settlement is scheduled for June 27, 2024.

- The Clerk requested approval for 19 members to be removed from the rolls due to inactivity and, Michael and Andria Kasky, and Megan and Morgan Smith requested change to inactive status. Also, Sue and Jack Masters were transferred to Westminster Presbyterian Church. This brings total membership to 402. Session **APPROVED** all changes.
- The Outreach Committee received approval to hold a free concert on Wednesday, September 25, 2024, at 7:30 PM featuring Irish singer Charlie Zahm (once in a generation baritone) and master fiddler Tad Marks. The program will include local Irish dancers, Celtic music, and storytelling.

Finance Report – Elder Sandy Campbell reviewed the financial statements distributed with the Session packet. Receipts for May 2024 totaled \$48,709 compared to May 2023 total of \$69,292. Expenses for the first five months of 2024 are down 25% from the first five months of 2023. The surplus for the first four months of 2024 is in the amount of \$2,567 compared to the first five months of 2023 which produced a deficit of \$23,620. This surplus for 2024 is mostly a driven by cost reductions in the salary lines. It was also noted that mission payments are ahead of schedule with 63% of the budgeted monies being paid out in the first five months of 2024 compared to 41% for 2023.

A new check request form was devised by Sandy in both digital and hard copy form. Requests may now be submitted electronically or in hard copy form. Receipts and invoices supporting the check request may also be submitted electronically.

A motion from the Finance Committee was **APPROVED** to establish a special designated fund to temporarily house the funds from the sale of 8 East Franklin until a permanent endowment fund can be established. Finance Committee will explore the use of the Presbyterian Foundation to establish an endowment. It was the sense of Session that no money from the sale be used in the operating accounts and that a full accounting of all monies received be made so that Session has a complete understanding of the available funds.

Elder Paul Tutton advised Session that a new Commercial and Liability insurance policy was secured through Sovereign Group for about the same price as the former insurance policy but with an increase in the deductible from \$2,500 to \$10,000. He also informed Session of the failure of the Kesel House first floor air conditioner unit and the estimate \$13,000 to replace it and the discussion followed on the funding of capital improvements.

Elder MacDonald reported on the progress of the Pastoral Nominating Committee (PNC). The PNC has met three times in June. The first meeting was an orientation meeting with the Commission on Ministry (COM) of the Philadelphia Presbytery explaining the resources available from them to the committee. During this first meeting, the committee made organizational appointments with Betsy Podrebarac and Eric MacDonald being appointed as co-chairs, Sandi Gatch as corresponding secretary, Susan Kassab as recording secretary, and Joe Hare providing the devotions each week. The PNC is meeting weekly on Mondays and will have the Ministry Discernment Profile (MDP) available for Session approval at the July meeting of Session. The COM will approve the MDP in early August and the PNC would then be able to enter the form onto the PCUSA system and start receiving candidates for review.

The Session received an update on the search for the position of Children, Youth, and Family Ministry Director. The committee has revised the position description to make it flow better and reminds all that any referrals are appreciated.

Under “New Business”, Session **APPROVED** the resignation of Elder Sandra Campbell effective June 30, 2024, from active service as she will assume the position of interim Business Administrator upon Jack Schoen’s retirement. In conjunction with this, Sandy is stepping down as chair of the Finance Committee and Session **APPROVED** Elder John Walton to assume the chairmanship of that committee effective July 1, 2024.

Session also **APPROVED** two corporate resolutions, one changing the bank signatories for the accounts with Franklin Mint Federal Credit Union to John Walton, Sandy Campbell, and Joe Hare. The second corporate resolution changed the corporate officers effective July 1, 2024, to John Walton, President, Sandra Campbell, Treasurer, and Joe Hare, Corporate Secretary.

Elder Kalemkarian discussed the replacement of the sound and video system in the church since many components are reaching the end of their useful life during 2025 and 2026. The estimated cost for this work is approximately \$60,000 and there is currently \$25,000 in the Technology designated fund account 3565. He was approached by a member of the congregation offering a \$2,500 matching gift to assist in raising funds and awareness of the need for this important service to the church. Session **APPROVED** the gift and Elder Kalemkarian will work on the details of fund raising from the congregation.

Joseph Hare
Clerk of Session

Highlights from the July 2024 Session Meeting

The regular Session meeting was held on July 16, 2024. Devotions were centered on the new church vision statement. 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. Items approved included:

Informational:

- Total attendance figures for June 2024: **335** attended in-person Worship Services and **400** viewed services on-line. Average **Sunday** Worship attendance for the last several months: June **147**, May 168, April, 227, March, 258, February, 226, January 2024, 217; December 2023, 271, November, 181, October, 168; September, 189; August, 159, July, 160. Average weekly Sunday Worship attendance for 2023 was 193. Average weekly Sunday Worship attendance for 2024 is **207**.

- I. Finance Report** – Interim Business Administrator and Treasurer Sandy Campbell advised Session that the sale of 8 East Franklin was completed on July 9 and the accounting for the sale will appear in the July financial packet next month. A total of about \$476,000 will be realized after the satisfaction of the mortgage which happened last week. The endowment fund to be set up for the support of the facilities will consist of approximately \$297,000 and \$178,448 will flow through to cash accounts in the balance sheet to fund the designated fund area. The Finance Committee is reviewing the possibility of naming the two endowment funds to distinguish the purpose of each. Discussions are underway to determine if the 25 % of the current endowment that supports the capital reserve account should be moved to the new endowment thus creating a “missions” endowment and a “facilities” endowment.

Elder John Walton, Chair of Finance reviewed the financial statements distributed with the Session packet. Receipts for June 2024 totaled \$48,620 compared to June 2023’s total of \$50,886. Expenses for the first six months of 2024 are down 30.8% from the first six months of 2023 and stands at 44.7% of total budgeted expenses for 2024, halfway through the year (if on budget, it would be at 50%). The surplus for the first six months of 2024 is in the amount of \$2,104 compared to the first six months of 2023 which produced a deficit of \$30,314. This surplus for 2024 is mostly driven by cost reductions in the salary lines. It was also noted that mission payments are ahead of schedule with 74% of the budgeted monies being paid out in the first six months of 2024 compared to 49% for 2023.

II. Ongoing/Old Business

- A. The Session received an update on the search for the position of Children, Youth, and Family Ministry Director. The committee will be interviewing a new candidate next week. The search committee advised Session of the need to use LinkedIn to generate more resumes and the expense will be about \$500. The Session had no objection to using funds

from the Session Expense account to help with this if funds are not available in Children and Youth accounts.

III. New Business

- A. A **motion** was made by Elder Kalemkarian and seconded by Elder Walton to establish a formal Technical Ministries Committee to lead audio, video, streaming, conferencing, network, computer and phone services. The committee will manage the following budget and fund: Operating Budget: 8500 Technical Ministries and Designated Reserve / Donor Fund: 3565 Technology Fund. Initial Committee Members will include Scott MacDonald, Mark Gible, Tom Palmer, Chad Sanford, and Art Kalemkarian (2024 - 2025 chair). It was noted by Elder Tuton that the Property Committee is in full support of this motion. Session **APPROVED** the motion.
- B. A **motion** from the Pastoral Nominating Committee (PNC) requesting Session to approve the Ministry Discernment Profile (MDP) which was completed by the PNC and permit the MDP to be submitted to the Commission on Ministry (COM) of the Philadelphia Presbytery to start the process of receiving interested candidates from the Louisville office of the General Assembly. Several questions and comments were made regarding a “Clergy Couple” category and the number of years of experience needed of candidates. Questions were answered by Elder MacDonald, Rev. Cagle and the Clerk. Motion was **APPROVED**. The Clerk will notify the COM via a letter.
- C. A **motion** from the Outreach Committee requesting approval to hold a Craft Bazaar event on Saturday, November 30, 2024, using both Dale Hall and Hassler Chapel with time TBD was **APPROVED**.
- D. A **motion** from the Outreach Committee requesting approval of Session to enter a float into the Media Borough Christmas Parade on Sunday, December 1, 2024, was **APPROVED**. The float will again be a nativity theme featuring MPC Cornerstone Kids.
- E. The Session was asked to approve the request of Mr. and Mrs. Mickey Somsanith (both members) to baptize their minor daughters Mira and Olive on Sunday, September 22, 2024, at the 10:00 AM Worship service with Rev. Cagle officiating, The request was **APPROVED**.

Joseph Hare
Clerk of Session

Highlights from the August 2024 Session Meeting

The regular Session meeting was held on August 20, 2024. Devotions were centered on the new church vision statement. 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.

Informational:

- On August 5, it was discovered that a section of downspout had fallen from the east side of the sanctuary. The heavy rains later that week allowed observation of the gutter system under load. The recently installed membrane gutter system on the sanctuary roof appears to be functioning well but the below ground drainage system may be restricted. The north side of Kesel House has consistently experienced clogging from the adjacent trees and one section of downspout has recently fallen. The downspouts along the Franklin Street side do not drain properly. To address these general concerns and to reinstall the fallen downspouts, Gutter Brothers provided an inspection and assessment on August 13, 2024 and it was determined that the drains are clogged and a plan is underway to fix the condition..
- Total attendance figures for July 2024: **309** attended in-person Worship Services and **284** viewed services on-line. Average **Sunday** Worship attendance for the last several months: July **148**, June 147, May 168, April, 227, March, 258, February, 226, January 2024, 217; December 2023, 271, November, 181, October, 168; September, 189; August, 159, July, 160. Average weekly Sunday Worship attendance for 2023 was 193. Average weekly Sunday Worship attendance for 2024 is **199**.
- **Finance Report** – Elder John Walton, Chair of Finance reviewed the financial statements distributed with the Session packet. Receipts for July 2024 totaled \$50,822 compared to July 2023's total of \$58,558. Average weekly giving for 2024 stands at \$12,223 per week versus \$10,470 for 2023. Expenses for the first seven months of 2024 are down 24.7% from the first seven months of 2023 and stand at 53.7% of total budgeted expenses for 2024, 7/12th through the year (if on budget, expenses would be at 58.3% of budget). The deficit for the first seven months of 2024 is in the amount of \$9,666 compared to the first seven months of 2023 which produced a deficit of \$55,905. This lower deficit for 2024 is driven mostly by cost reductions in the salary lines. It was also noted that mission payments are ahead of schedule with 76% of the budgeted monies being paid out in the first seven months of 2024 compared to 59% for 2023.

The committee announced that Deacon Sharon Riley will chair the 2024-25 Stewardship Committee.

The calculation for the distribution of Endowment Fund earnings was made in July. The calculation is 4% of the previous three-year average of the fund's December valuation. The amount is \$15,416 with 50% going to Local Benevolence Mission fund, 25% to General Missions and 25% to Capital Reserve for building preservation.

- **Ongoing/Old Business**

The Session received an update on the search for the position of Children, Youth, and Family Ministry Director. No new developments at this time.

- **New Business**

A. Motion from the Worship committee requesting approval for Elder Eric MacDonald to be guest preacher on Sunday, September 1, 2024, at the 10:00 AM Worship service. Motion was **APPROVED**.

B. Motion from the Worship Committee to hold one Christmas Eve service on December 24, 2024, at 5:00 PM. Motion was **APPROVED**.

C. The Children’s Committee requested approval for the “Blessing of the Backpacks” during the worship service on Sunday, September 8, 2024. Request was **APPROVED**.

D. The children’s Committee requested approval for the Children’s Christmas Pageant be held during the worship service on Sunday, December 15, 2024. Request was **APPROVED**.

E. The examination by Session of new Elders John Wood (Ordination) and David Layton (Installation) was undertaken tonight following completion of elder training earlier in this month. John and David answered questions related to their faith journeys and takeaways from the training sessions. The Session voted to **APPROVE** the examinations and welcomed its new members.

F. Motion from the Moderator to approve the Installation/Ordination service on Sunday, September 8, 2024, at 10:00 AM Worship service for the following Deacons and Elders:

- i. Installation of Deacon Lynne McCone, Class of 2025.
- ii. Installation of Deacons Steve Beckley, Jeanne Furey, and Cornelia Vieira, Class of 2027.
- iii. Ordination of Deacons-elect Dave Kolva and Sue Kolva, Class of 2027.
- iv. Ordination of Elder-elect John Wood, Class of 2027.
- v. Installation of Elder Art Kalemkarian, Jr., Class of 2026.
- vi. Installation of Elders Dave Layton, Cindy McPeak, Elizabeth Rohr, and Jo Snead, Class of 2027.

Motion was **seconded** and **APPROVED**.

G. Motions from the Finance Committee regarding the establishment of a new endowment fund and policy changes and restructuring of the current endowment fund policies were brought forward. The background information: Currently, there is one Endowment Fund (for the purposes here it is referred to as the “Original” Endowment

Fund). Current policy states that the annual income from this fund is will be 4% of the three-year average balance distributed 75% to Missions and 25% to Capital Reserves for building preservation.

- **Motion 1** – **Move** that the Original Endowment Fund be split into two separate components – with 75% for a new Missions Endowment and 25% for a new Capital/Building Endowment.

Rationale – This maintains the original intent of the annual distribution policy. It allows future contributors to select which area(s) they would like to have their gift support.

Motion was **APPROVED**.

- **Motion 2** – **Move** to create two separate endowments with the split of funds from Motion #1 above – One for Missions and one for Capital/Building needs. Both would be principal retaining investments. Funding would be as follows -

1. Missions Endowment would be funded with the 75% of the Original Endowment
2. Capital/Building Endowment would be funded with 25% of the Original Endowment plus the proceeds from the sale of the East Franklin property.

Rationale – This maintains the original intent of the Original Endowment. Motion was **APPROVED**.

- **Motion 3** – **Move** to revise the existing 5300 - Endowment Fund Policy to apply only to the new Missions Endowment to the following –

1. “By policy, earnings from the Missions Endowment are calculated at 4% of the principal and distributed annually (usually mid-year) as follows:
 - a. 67% to 3100 Local Mission
 - b. 33% to 3099 Miscellaneous Missions”

Rationale – This maintains the original intent of the Original Endowment for amount to each mission fund.

Motion was **APPROVED**.

- **Motion 4** – **Move** that the Finance Committee to take the next steps for investing both endowments with New Covenant Trust Company (NCTC).

Rationale – NCTC has a long, successful history in this space, they understand churches, they can provide the sustained professional advising that has been missing to date, an active management strategy could result in stronger returns, and their management could promote consistent analysis and adjustment in the portfolio to meet our goals.

The motion was NOT approved and the motion was sent back to the Finance Committee for further study regarding rates of return comparing Vanguard and NCTC investments.

Joseph Hare
Clerk of Session

Highlights from the September 2024 Session Meeting

The regular Session meeting was held on September 17, 2024. Devotions were centered on the themes for the 2024-25 Stewardship Campaign. 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.

Informational:

- Total attendance figures for July 2024: **263** attended in-person Worship Services and **324** viewed services on-line. Average Sunday Worship attendance for the last several months: August **147**, July 148, June 147, May 168, April, 227, March, 258, February, 226, January 2024, 217; December 2023, 271, November, 181, October, 168; September, 189; August, 159, July, 160. Average weekly Sunday Worship attendance for 2023 was **193**. Average weekly Sunday Worship attendance for 2024 is **192**.
- **Finance Report** – Elder John Walton, Chair of Finance reviewed the financial statements distributed with the Session packet. Receipts for August 2024 totaled \$54,472 compared to August 2023's total of \$36,369. Average weekly giving for 2024 stands at \$11,881 per week versus \$10,256 for 2023. Expenses for the first eight months of 2024 are down 25.7% from the first eight months of 2023 and stand at 60.27% of total budgeted expenses for 2024, 8/12th through the year (if on budget, expenses would be at 66.7% of budget). The deficit for the first eight months of 2024 is in the amount of \$2,660 compared to the first eight months of 2023 which produced a deficit of \$85,739. This lower deficit for 2024 is driven mostly by cost reductions in the salary lines. It was also noted that mission payments are ahead of schedule with 82% of the budgeted monies being paid out in the first eight months of 2024 compared to 72% for 2023.

Regarding cash management, the Committee and treasurer have taken steps to open new CD's and a new savings bank account that will produce higher interest to MPC. The treasurer invested \$100,000 in a nine-month CD at 5.0% APY and another \$100,000 in a six-month CD at 4.75% APY. Additionally, a "Power Savings" account was opened at Franklin Mint Federal Credit Union producing an interest rate of 3.45% versus the old money market at 1.49% and the old savings account at 0.1%. A total of \$350,000 was transferred into this account. The limitation on the Power Savings account is that there is only one free withdrawal/transfer allowed per month.

The annual 4% disbursement from the Endowment Fund was completed this month with those funds moving into the Capital Reserve (3001) and the two missions designated funds (3099 and 3100).

- The Session received an update on the search for the position of Children, Youth, and Family Ministry Director the committee made a **motion** to increase the starting salary for this position to \$51,500 annually and to change the title to Director of Children and Youth Ministries. The committee felt that the use of “Families” in the position title caused it to appear more than a full-time commitment. **Motion** was **APPROVED**.
- A **motion** from the Moderator to approve the 2024-2025 Elder committee assignments and At-Large members. Listing is included in the weekly *Stay Connected* newsletter. **Motion** was seconded and **APPROVED**.
- A **motion** from the Moderator to approve the appointment of Sandy Campbell as Corporate Treasurer for 2025. **Motion** was seconded and **APPROVED**.
- A **motion** from the Moderator to approve the appointment of Elder Kate Meehan as Chair and Elder Cindy McPeak as Vice-chair of the Congregational Nominating Committee for the 2024-2025 church year. **Motion** was seconded and **APPROVED**.
- A **motion** from Worship committee to approve a Thanksgiving Eve Soup and Service for Wednesday, November 27, 2024, at 6:00 PM with Communion. **Motion** was **APPROVED**.
- A **motion** from Outreach committee to approve the use of self-contained firepits on the front lawn of MPC during the Holiday Craft Show in order to invite folks to make smores. The firepits will be supervised by an adult at all times. **Motion** was **APPROVED**.
- A **motion** from the Finance Committee to create a new policy for distribution from Capital/Building Endowment. For consideration – “By policy, earnings from the Capital/Building Endowment are calculated at 4% of the 3-year, trialing average of the principal and distributed annually (usually mid-year) to 3001 Capital Reserve and 3565 Technology Fund. Finance Committee will determine distribution based on the needs of each committee. Recommended ranges are –
 - 10% - 50% to 3565 Technology Fund
 - 50% - 90% to 3001 Capital Reserve

Rationale – The physical plant will consistently have the larger proportion of expenditures; however, there could be times when the physical systems associated with technology could require upgrades, additions, or revisions. This policy should have flexibility to support those needs. **Motion** was **APPROVED**.

- The Finance Committee made the presentation of the 2025 Challenge Budget. This is not the final approved budget but simply the budget requested by the various committee chairs plus several one-time expenses that will be incurred in 2025. The Challenge Budget for

2025 was **APPROVED** and will be communicated to the congregation via a special mailing later in September.

Joseph Hare
Clerk of Session

Highlights from the October 2024 Session Meeting

The regular Session meeting was held on October 15, 2024. Devotions were centered on the themes for the 2024-25 Stewardship Campaign. 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.

Informational:

- Total attendance figures for September 2024: **425** attended in-person Worship Services and **391** viewed services on-line. Average **Sunday** Worship attendance for the last several months: September **163**, August 147, July 148, June 147, May 168, April, 227, March, 258, February, 226, January 2024, 217; December 2023, 271, November, 181, October, 168; September, 189; August, 159, July, 160. Average weekly Sunday Worship attendance for 2023 was 193. Average weekly Sunday Worship attendance for 2024 is **189**.
- The Clerk of Session received communication from the Moderator of the Deacons Board that Deacon Susan Hare has been appointed as Deacon Representative to the Congregational Nominating Committee for a one-year term ending in September 2025.
- **Finance Report** – Elder John Walton, Chair of Finance reviewed the financial statements distributed with the Session packet. Receipts for September 2024 totaled \$58,656 compared to September 2023's total of \$48,499. Average weekly giving for 2024 stands at \$11,367 per week versus \$10,146 for 2023. Expenses for the first nine months of 2024 are down 24.8% from the first nine months of 2023 and stand at 67.2% of total budgeted expenses for 2024, 9/12th through the year (if on budget, expenses would be at 75% of budget). The net income (revenue minus expenses) for the first nine months of 2024 is in the amount of \$8,020 compared to the first nine months of 2023 which produced a deficit of \$94,658. This increase in net income for 2024 is driven mostly by cost reductions in the salary lines. It was also noted that mission payments are ahead of schedule with 88% of the budgeted monies being paid out in the first nine months of 2024 compared to 79% for 2023.

Because of the increased investment of cash from the sale of 8 East Franklin, we have experienced an almost 4-fold increase in investment income this year versus last.

At the August 2024 meeting of Session, the Finance Committee was asked to further investigate the use of the New Covenant Trust Company (NCTC) as an advisor on the proposed endowment funds both existing and new funds from the sale of 8 East Franklin Street. Elder Walton updated the Session on four areas raised as concerns in August. First, references were checked on NCTC. He spoke with people at Oak Grove Presbyterian

Church in Illinois and New River Presbyterian Church in Philadelphia. Oak Grove has \$7 million invested with NCTC and New River had a million-dollar settlement on insurance when their old church burned down. Both spoke highly of the attention paid by the staff at NCTC to their needs. A recommendation was also sought through a personal contact Joe Hare had with the First Presbyterian Church of Hawley, PA. The former president of Lucent Technologies is Treasurer at FPCH, and they just invested \$500,000 with NCTC and are very pleased with the start-up process and the attention to detail exhibited by NCTC. Second, the type of investments in NCTC are virtually unlimited and tailored to the institution's needs. Third, NCTC performance has met or exceeded industry benchmarks. Fourth, Swarthmore and Wallingford Presbyterian churches were contacted to see how they handle investments, and both have funds only in Vanguard. For the time being, the Finance Committee has decided to stay with Vanguard and to form an investment committee to oversee the current funds. Session had no objection to forming an investment committee reporting to the Finance Committee and Finance will return at a latter date with more specifics.

Just prior to today's meeting it was discovered that a safety deposit box in MPC's name resides with TD Bank at 42 East Baltimore Avenue in Media, PA. The box (#207) was acquired in 1997 with signatories being Chuck Malloy, John Basma, and C. Howard Davis. A new Corporate Resolution was prepared authorizing new signatories, Sandy Campbell as Treasurer, John Walton as President and Joe Hare as Corporate Secretary to have access to the box (resolution is attached to these minutes) and presented for approval by Session. **Resolution** was **APPROVED**. After this meeting it was determined the box contained old mortgages and deeds related to the church buildings. The Clerk will see to it that the documents are recorded in future minutes and the originals from the box will be stored with the Presbyterian Historical Society in Philadelphia where other MPC documents are stored for safe keeping.

- A **motion** was offered from the Worship Committee authorizing Communion be served at each Sunday worship service at the pastor's discretion. **Motion** was **APPROVED**.
- At the request of the Clerk, the following Elders are to be elected as Commissioners to the Presbytery of Philadelphia for 2025: Joe Hare, Beth Kalemkarian, Eileen McLaughlin, Betsy Podrebarac, Jo Snead, and Paul Tutton. **Commissioners** to Presbytery for 2025 were **APPROVED**.

Joseph Hare
Clerk of Session

Highlights from the November 2024 Session Meeting

The regular Session meeting was held on November 19, 2024. Devotions were centered on the Sermon on the Mount (the Beatitudes) as told in the Gospel of Matthew. 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 October 2024: **361** attended in-person Worship Services and **361** viewed services on-line. Average **Sunday** Worship attendance for the last several months: October **180**, September 163, August 147, July 148, June 147, May 168, April, 227, March 258, February, 226, January 2024, 217; December 2023, 271, November, 181, October, 168. Average weekly Sunday Worship attendance for 2023 was 193. Average weekly Sunday Worship attendance for 2024 is **188**.
- **Finance Report** – Elder John Walton, Chair of Finance reviewed the financial statements distributed with the Session packet. John noted that the statements are in DRAFT form for this month due to the bank statements not being available until after the Business Administrator went on vacation on November 5. Members of Session are referred to the Treasurer’s report in the packet distributed prior to this meeting for more detail on the financial statements. Receipts for October 2024 totaled \$55,619 compared to the October 2023 total of \$56,016. Average weekly giving for 2024 stands at \$11,535 per week versus \$10,319 for 2023. Expenses for the first ten months of 2024 are down 23.1% from the first ten months of 2023 and stand at 75.6% of total budgeted expenses for 2024, 10/12th through the year (if on budget, expenses would be at 83.3% of budget). The net income (revenue minus expenses) for the first ten months of 2024 is in the amount of \$5,074 compared to the first ten months of 2023 which produced a deficit of \$99,306. This increase in net income for 2024 is driven mostly by cost reductions in the salary lines. It was also noted that mission payments are ahead of schedule with 92% of the budgeted monies being paid out in the first ten months of 2024 compared to 79% for 2023.

Because of the increased investment of cash from the sale of 8 East Franklin, we have experienced an almost 5-fold increase in investment income this year versus last.

Sandy Campbell gave an update on the Stewardship Campaign. The campaign is doing very well at this time. As of November 18, we have received 60 pledges for 2025 compared to a total of 88 for 2024. The pledged giving for 2025 represents 70% of the total 2025 operating budget.

A financial review was conducted by Joe Hare, John Walton and Sandy Campbell and a report in letter form was given to Session outlining recommendations. A copy of the report is attached to these minutes. Nothing significant was uncovered in the review of

the financials from February 2024 and several recommendations regarding bank reconciliations and the establishment of an Audit Committee are being studied by the Finance Committee.

The Session received an update on the search for the position of Children and Youth Ministry Director. The Search Committee has recommended to the Administration Committee and Administration has approved the hire of Tyler Harvey effective December 9, 2024. Congratulations to all those involved on a job well done!

A second reading of the new Bequest Policy was offered at this meeting as follows:

“XXXX – Bequeathed Gift Policy (gifts given as part of estate by the deceased)

Bequeathed gifts are gifts given by a deceased person or their Executor as part of an estate plan. The gifts given as a bequest should be utilized in a way that supports the church for generations to come. Unless directed otherwise by the estate, funds will be used as follows –

- 70% invested as principal in the (new) Capital/Building Endowment
- 20% invested as principal in the (new) Missions Endowment
- 10% may be allotted per Session decision for immediate needs or distribution to a designated fund.

Session can and should review and potentially revise this policy when the Capital/Building Endowment reaches \$1 million.”

Rationale – A bequest is a gift from the deceased as part of their estate planning. It is not that same as gifts given in honor or memory by friends and family. Bequests have the potential to be significantly larger than Memorial gifts.

A question was raised regarding the 20% going to mission being too low. Mission co-chair pointed out the fact that the Mission Committee has access to two large, designated funds that can be used and also that two of our mission partners next year are going to retire freeing up more funds. Session **APPROVED** the policy as written.

A Corporate Resolution was moved by the Finance Committee changing the signatories on the Tyndale Charitable Remainder Unitrust held at PNC Bank NA (copy attached). John Schoen was still listed as a signatory and this resolution changes those to Sandy Campbell, Joe Hare, and John Walton. Motion was **APPROVED**.

The Administration Committee presented Rev. Cagle’s 2025 Transitional Ministry Contract for approval. A copy is attached to these minutes. The only difference in the contract from 2024 was a reduction in the cost of health care benefits moving from ‘family’ coverage to ‘member and spouse’. Motion was **APPROVED**.

The Outreach Committee is seeking approval for the use of the sanctuary, Hassler Chapel, and the kitchen on Saturday, December 7, 2024, to participate in the Media Borough Holiday House Tour. Motion was **APPROVED**.

A motion from the Outreach Committee proposing the dedication of the worship service on a Sunday in the spring of 2025, to celebrate the 175th Anniversary of Media Presbyterian Church. The committee will return with a firm date after consultation with the Worship Committee. Motion was **APPROVED**.

A motion from the Worship Committee to apply the offering from the 2024 Christmas Concert to designated fund 4502, Special Worship Music. Motion was **APPROVED**.

A motion from the Worship Committee to sell or donate the old upright piano in Dale Hall. The instrument is not used and the committee feels it is not worth the money to have it repaired or tuned. Motion was **APPROVED**.

The Youth Committee is requesting the use of the facilities on Sunday, December 29, 2024, for a combined multi-church youth meeting and game night. Motion was **APPROVED**.

Joseph Hare
Clerk of Session

Highlights from the December 2024 Session Meeting

The regular Session meeting was held on December 17, 2024. Devotions were centered on Joseph's apparition and his mercy shown toward Mary and his obedience to God's word as told in the Gospel of Matthew. 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 November 2024: **425** attended in-person Worship Services and **360** viewed services online. Average **Sunday** Worship attendance for the last several months: 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, November, 181. Average weekly Sunday Worship attendance for 2023 was 193. Average weekly Sunday Worship attendance for 2024 is **189**.
- **Finance Report** – Elder John Walton, Chair of Finance reviewed the financial statements distributed with the Session packet. John noted that the October statements for the November meeting were in DRAFT form due to the bank statements not being available until after the Business Administrator went on vacation on November 5. This month's packet includes the final financial statements for both October and November. Members of 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 November 2024 totaled \$64,162 compared to the November 2023 total of \$70,255. Total receipts for 2024 through November stand at \$600,258 versus \$626,084 for same time in 2023. It was noted that there is still \$49,000 on the balance sheet that is in advanced giving for 2024 which will be moved to income in December and improve the overall total.

Expenses for the eleven months of 2024 are down 28.5% from the same eleven months of 2023 and stand at 84.8% of total budgeted expenses for 2024, 11/12th through the year (if on budget, expenses would be at 91.6% of budget). The net income (revenue minus expenses) for the eleven months of 2024 is in the amount of \$9,900 compared to the eleven months of 2023 which produced a deficit of \$101,000.

- Pastor reported on the first week of employment of Ty Harvey as Children and Youth Director. He said it is going very well, and Ty is enthusiastic and eager to get the programs underway.

- Request was made for the use of facilities for the marriage of Cortney Conrad (NM) and Matthew Lassik (NM) on Saturday, May 24, 2025. Pre-marriage counseling will be conducted prior to wedding by MPC clergy. The couple has been advised of MPC fee structure and has agreed to all fees and requirements. The pastor of MPC will officiate at ceremony. **Motion** was made and **seconded** and Session **APPROVED** the request.

Joseph Hare
Clerk of Session