

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 10, 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