

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