

## **Session Highlights 2019.12.08**

Session approved the change of the Member Care Committee to the Fellowship Committee! The mission of the Fellowship Committee is to “Extend Christ-centered fellowship opportunities and activities to our congregation.”

Pledges for 2020 are down 34% and planned contributions are down 19% when compared to the same time last year. Letters have gone out to 2019 contributors and congregants are encouraged to submit their planned giving so that Session and the Finance Committee can better plan for 2020!

If you would like to make a contribution of a large item such as appliances please make certain to contact the church office first to determine if there is a need. There is no storage space at MPC so planned giving is strongly encouraged!

MPC’s Annual Business Meeting is scheduled for Sunday February 23, 2020. The services will be combined after which the Business Meeting will occur.

**Session Highlights 2019.11.16.**

A retreat for Elders and Deacons took place at Harvey Cedars on 11/15-16.

Session approved the creation of a small memorial plaque to be placed in a suitable location in the kitchen as a tribute to Bruce Saybolt.

Two baptisms were approved!

Session approved the use of Dale Hall for an AA meeting on 11/22. This group normally meets at BVM but that facility is not available on the date they meet.

Session approved the following to serve as MPC Presbytery Commissioners:

Rich Erickson  
Joe Hare  
Martha Harriz  
Beth Kalemkarian  
Jeannie Menaldino  
Jo Snead  
Paul Tutton

Session also approved all current Session members as Presbytery Commissioners to ensure sufficient participation and representation as needed at Presbytery meetings which occur four times per year.

## **Session Highlights 2019.10.08**

The new Church bus will arrive by the end of October. A buyer is being sought for the current bus.

Session members will have a retreat on 11/15-16 at Harvey Cedars.

Safety Improvements are underway in the Children's area. This includes a buzzer system for retrieving children, sign-in/sign-out procedures, improved door security and security cameras. A safety expert will be scheduled to meet with Session.

Two baptisms were approved!

To meet legal requirements, Session approved Joe Hare as President of the Corporation and Nick Aponte as the Treasurer.

Session is seeking additional MPC Presbytery Commissioners. If you are interested, please contact Pastor Fettig. Current and former Elders are eligible.

Storage space in Dale Hall is limited so please remove any and all items where the Worship Team practices!

The Session approved a gift of \$20,000 to CityTeam for their expansion of supportive faith-based housing for young women and for their new initiative to create a Mobile Food Market, both in Chester. This gift was made possible due to the generosity of the Dunn/Cherry Fund.

Following input from the congregation, Session approved three (3) changes to the sanctuary to improve space and allow for better access for those with physical mobility needs. The first line of pews will be removed at the front of the church to improve space. The door will be enlarged at the top of the external ramp. The sanctuary door and ramp leading to that external door will also be improved. Pew carve-outs within the sanctuary will be created for wheelchairs and/or storage of walkers. A complete report with congregational feedback is now posted on MPC's website.

## **Session Highlights 2019.9.10**

The following services were approved by Session:

- A. Two services each Sunday, 9:30 AM and 11:00 AM, with communion at each service, beginning Sunday, September 8, 2019 through Sunday, May 17, 2020.
- B. One service only on Sunday, November 10, 2019 for Stewardship Sunday.
- C. Thanksgiving Eve service, with Communion, on November 27, 2019.
- D. Three services for Christmas Eve
  - 1) 5:00 Children's Service
  - 2) 7:30 Family service with candlelight
  - 3) 9:30 PM Candlelight service with communion
- E. One service only on Sunday, December 29, 2019.

MPC has committed to a family retreat at Harvey Cedars for February, 2020

The campaign for the van for Pastor George and Maranatha Church was successful.

Kwinn Tucker will be speaking to the Mission Committee on October 1 about their planned expansion into women's services.

## **Session Highlights 2019.08.06**

Volunteers will be utilized to assist attendees with physical challenges as they arrive at church. This will begin in September. Please note this assistance will not include valet parking. Volunteers will be able to sign-up via the Ministry Scheduler. If volunteers are not in the Ministry Scheduler, they can reach out to Jasmine to get started.

Lisa Dombroski requested and building usage was approved for the 2nd Annual Fit and Fun Day at MPC on November 9, 2019. Activities will include yoga and other exercise offerings as well as nutrition information. Baskets will be raffled to raise funds for the Mark Dombroski Foundation.

Six (6) baptisms were approved!

Session approved exploring the replacement of the Franklin Street air conditioning unit.

Session is discussing how to improve staff safety procedures in light of recent potential threats.

## **Session Highlights 2019.06.11**

Session conceptually approved several initiatives to improve space and access for wheelchairs and walkers. Included in the plan is improvement of a door entrance with a lighted keypad. Four pew carve-outs were approved as well as increasing space at the front of the Sanctuary. A fourth recommendation involves utilizing glass door(s) at the main entrance to the church. Before final decisions are made meetings will be arranged to gather input and suggestions from a broader group of church members.

Additional reserved “Handicapped” parking spaces will be requested on Baltimore Pike for utilization when the church has services/functions. Offering assistance to those needing help exiting their vehicle and/or navigating with a wheelchair, walker or other assistive devices while parked in these spaces is also being explored.

Three (3) baptisms were approved!

A small group led by Taylor Buchanan was granted approval to continue to use the Youth Room on Saturdays from 9-11 AM through the end of the year.

## **Session Highlights 2019.05.14**

Reverend Fettig received feedback from Session regarding his performance. The Deacons will also have an opportunity to share their feedback.

The Missions Committee is supporting the need for the purchase of a van for Pastor George of Ooty India.

Efforts are underway to better coordinate the planning of activities and the budgetary process within and between Session Committees.

## **Session Highlights 2019.04.09**

Session approved the following:

- use of the facilities for Laura Kalemkarian's baby shower on May 11<sup>th</sup>
- the purchase of a new church bus
- five (5) baptisms
- ten (10) new members

Session is planning a follow-up Gravity retreat on 6/15 with the goal of clarifying and implementing our church's core values.

Session began discussion of how best to improve outside door accessibility for worshippers in our sanctuary and the church overall. This included a discussion of creating pew "carve-outs" to accommodate worshippers who use wheelchairs, walkers, or other mobility aids. A third area of discussion was related to realigning the space at the front of the sanctuary to create better visibility as well as provide enhanced space for music groups. An architect is being consulted to assist in proposing how best to make these changes and we will keep the congregation informed as this effort progresses.