

MPC Session Highlights 2020.11.10

The October financial package was reviewed with no outstanding issues. Total receipts year-to-date are down 6% compared to 2019. Expenses are down 5% over last year at the same time. Income minus expenditures year-to-date equals -\$16,563. No financial concerns were identified at this time.

Upon the recommendation of the Reopening Committee, Session approved via e-mail the third-party facility tour of Tech Team AV system and observation of Tech Team production of a Sunday Service by three other church's representatives.

An Usher Training YouTube video has been created: https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=6nJr_DTNjzs

A wedding and a baptism were approved by Session for 2021!

MPC Session Highlights 2020.10.13

The September financial package was reviewed with no outstanding issues. Giving in September was down 29.5% when compared to September giving in 2019. The significant drop in 2020 September giving is due to a number of congregants completing their yearly pledge early. Total receipts year-to-date are down 2% compared to 2019. Expenses are down 3% over last year at the same time. Income minus expenditures year-to-date equals -\$21,400. No financial concerns were identified at this time.

Upon the recommendation of the Reopening Committee, Session APPROVED via e-mail the DELCO Young Life use of MPC space, the Youth Fall Ministry Outline, the MPC Picnic and Praise on 10/4/2020, and the Church Reopening Plan for 10/4/2020.

The new class of Elders were present for their first Session Meeting on 10/13/2020. These include LuAnn Crosby, Jeanne Cunningham, Art Kalemkarian, Eileen McLaughlin and Ronald Reese. Robin Smith returned to serve a second 3-year term. Welcome aboard!

Session Highlights 2020.9.8

The August financial package was reviewed with no outstanding issues. Giving in August was up 16% when compared to August giving in 2019. Total receipts year-to-date are up 2% compared to 2019. Expenses are down 2% over last year at the same time. Income minus expenditures year-to-date equals -\$16,066. This deficit is consistent with prior year deficit patterns which are routinely overcome by end of year giving.

While Covid-19 has taken priority in terms of strategic planning and building modifications, the improvements for access for those with physical challenges previously approved by Session have not been forgotten. Those changes will continue to be planned in coordination with the Reopening Task Force and church service broadcasting efforts. Broadcasting live is expected to be a regular part of the service even after MPC is open and for the foreseeable future.

Equipment improvements have been made to broadcasting live church services. Hassler Chapel and other areas of the church have been equipped to accommodate the spacing needs required for safe distancing.

Session met with Mike Havel, Chair of the Reopening Task Force. Discussion focused on plans to safely reopen the church. Considerable planning is occurring that includes meeting all CDC and state guidelines for group meetings. A summary of those efforts will soon be shared with the congregation.

Session members will join with members of the Reopening Task Force to do a “dry run” of safety protocols during the 9/20 service. New Elders will also be ordained/installed at that live service.

The speaker on World Communion Sunday (10/4/2020) will be Missionary Jean-Luc Krieg, Urban Mosaic. His ministry to Mexico has been so successful that the model he developed will be expanding to other Central and South American countries.

Bulletin/Website Summary for Session 2020.08.11

The July financial package was reviewed with no outstanding issues. Giving in July was down 8% when compared to July giving in 2019. Total receipts year-to-date are up 1% compared to 2019, \$373,383 versus \$377,136. Average weekly receipts for the first 30 weeks of 2020 were \$14,751 compared to \$14,684 for the first 30 weeks of 2019. Expenses are down 2% over last year, \$448,499 versus \$459,601. The Franklin Street property's reassessment was received and reported as \$482k (7/1/2019) compared to the previous assessment of \$128k.

Members received notification from the Presbytery Foundation Monday that the company they use to manage client information (Blackbaud) was a victim of a ransomware attack in mid-July. The Blackbaud software platform that was compromised was used to acknowledge donors' contributions via email and US Mail and did not contain any information related to credit cards, bank accounts or Social Security numbers. Continued use of the online system to make contributions to MPC should not raise any increased level of concern beyond any other electronic transaction executed on the Internet. Anyone not wanting to use the credit card or bank account debit method of contributions, may mail or drop off their check to the church office (30 East Baltimore Avenue, Media, PA 19063) or use their bank's bill pay system that can send checks on a recurring basis directly to the church. Session agreed unanimously that a letter be drafted and sent to all church members advising them of the breach and informing them of any involved risks.

Upon the recommendation of the Reopening Task Force, Session approved the Youth Pandemic Plan and the VBS Pick-up Plan. Additional requests for building use and meetings are now routinely being managed. Work continues on a reopening plan for the church and making certain services to our children will be accomplished in a safe environment.

At the request of Pastor Fettig, Session is actively pursuing the development of a Christ-centered racial reconciliation plan. Session is also considering how we as a church can fulfill the Great Commission in an age of Covid-19.

Session Highlights 2020.7.13

Giving in June was up 2.6% when compared to June giving in 2019. Total receipts year-to-date are down 1% compared to 2019, \$373,383 versus \$377,136. Average weekly receipts for the first 26 weeks of 2020 were \$14,361 compared to \$14,505 for the first 26 weeks of 2019. Expenses are down 1% over last year, \$393,401 versus \$398,397. Session recognized the generosity of the congregation in their giving during these most difficult and challenging times.

Jack Arthur Gable son of Zack (m) and Maura (m) Gable was born on 7/16/2019 and baptized on 7/19/20!

An update of the MPC Video Streaming effort was given. Art Kalemkarian, Jr. and Scott MacDonald were again recognized for their efforts.

Rev. Fettig reported that Mike Havel agreed to Chair the Church Reopening Task Force. Current members were identified and include Sheila Chellappa, Sebastian Carpenter, Carrie Biermann, Art Kalemkarian, Jack Schoen, Douglas Crosby, Sandy Mullican and Eric MacDonald.

Session approved a process whereby meetings and requests for use of the building will be reviewed for safety and health concerns by the Reopening Task Force. Recommendations will be forwarded to Session for approval.

Session Highlights 2020.06.09

Finances – Giving was up substantially (23%) from last May. It appears it is not due to a larger number of new givers but rather more people keeping up and catching up with their pledges. On-line giving has increased from \$2,000 per month and is now over \$40,000 per month. Total receipts are down 2% and total expenses are also down 2% when compared to last year at the same time. Mission payments are continuing as per MPC's committed support.

Safety Planning – A comprehensive Safety Report that outlines past history and accomplishments was received from Pastor Fettig. Session also launched a Task Force to respond to the congregation regarding the concerns raised at the February Business meeting.

Personnel Policies for the Staff of MPC – Session approved the policy with incorporation of the following language/understanding relative to time frames for reporting harassment: *MPC will abide by all state and federal laws that are in place at the time of the harassment.*

Banner Elk - Following input from the Medical Task Force and legal counsel, Session regretfully determined that we could not endorse the Banner Elk trip this year due to COVID 19. It has been a 25-year tradition that has brought meaning and comfort to those served and those showing God's love to the underserved in rural North Carolina. We plan to continue this trip in safer times. At this time the trip, if it occurs, will be privately planned and organized and not supported or endorsed by MPC based on the recommendation of the MPC Medical Task Force and legal counsel due to the pandemic. For those interested in attending, please contact the Banner Elk planning team (Bob and Susan Young and Dale Belville) at bannerelk2020@gmail.com by Wednesday, 6/17. A more complete announcement has been sent to all members by way of e-mail and can also be found on our website (mediapresbyterian.org)

Members attending Session Meetings – Session approved the following regarding members attending Session Meetings:

Session adopted the following policy for members requesting to attend and observe meetings under the existing provisions of the Book of Order paragraph *G-10.0201 Meetings* – “The session may invite members of the congregation to attend and observe its meetings if it so desires, without restricting its right to meet in executive session whenever circumstances indicate the wisdom of doing so.”

Trusting that faithful members of Media Presbyterian would exercise their privilege of attendance in the best interest of the Church, members should always feel welcome to request an invitation to Session meetings.

Requests should be made in writing by submitting to Pastor and Clerk of Session with reason for request (i.e., observer, presenter, etc.) so that appropriate timing during the meeting and allotment of time may be allocated. General observation of the business of the session is considered a valid reason for attending and observing. Requests are expected to be accepted unless there is a specific expectation of confidentiality at a specific meeting. Please note that meetings are held the second Tuesday of each month. It is desirable that requests for attendance

be submitted the Thursday before the Session meeting so the discussion item can be added to the meeting Agenda sent to Session.

It is anticipated that varying views will be expressed at Session. The expectation is that all in attendance will treat each other with love and grace.

Confirmation Class - Amanda Hirt, Ansley Kauffman, Katelyn MacMillan and Neil Meehan completed Confirmation Class and will be received by the congregation on Youth Sunday, June 14, 2020. Welcome new members!

New Members Class – Zack & Maura Gable, Mark & Karen Gible, Nancy Henderson, Christi Moffatt, Temadji Kantangar, Herb & Susan Schultz and Marianna VanDeboe completed the New Members Class and were received by Session. Welcome new members!

Donation - A \$5,000 gift has been received with the intention that the funds be distributed to those locally in need of assistance from the pandemic.

2020 Covenant Fund Application – The Property Committee has made application to this Presbytery program for funding of the plan to improve accessibility and also to enhance our technology capabilities due to COVID-19.

Task Force to Prepare for Church Opening – A new Task Force is being established to assist with the final preparations for opening the church. Guidance will come from the Medical Task Force and the group will be following State and CDC guidelines. Look for an announcement requesting membership if you have an interest in helping!

Session Highlights 2020.05.12

Finances – April marked a significant increase in giving over the previous month. Receipts for the month totaled \$71,648 as compared to \$60,539 last April. Expenses were down 3% for the month. MPC received a Federal Loan under the PPL program for \$84,300. The loan will be forgiven when MPC reports its expenditures for the covered period. Special thanks to Jack Schoen and Joe Hare for their tireless efforts in seeing the process through! Please continue to give as you are able!

Safety Planning – A comprehensive report identifying safety actions that have occurred to date, are in process along with future planning will soon be released to the MPC Church Family. Congregants interested in participating with Session on Safety Planning will be invited to join the continuing efforts.

Summer Programs – The Banner Elk planning team has proposed a revised plan which was reviewed by the Missions Committee and shared with Session. It remains too early in the year to make a final determination. It was decided that VBS will be virtual this year and occur August 3-7.

Health and Technology Teams – these two teams are very active. The Technology Team has proposed changes to Property that resulted in improvements to our Sunday Morning Zoom broadcast. The Health Team has met and is reviewing PA and CDC guidelines

The Property Committee presented an overview of how MPC is doing video streaming and what is needed going forward. The production is currently heavily dependent on borrowed equipment and volunteers who, along with staff, are spending considerable hours behind the scenes. Property and Technology existing budgets were accessed to cover the \$16,165 needed for initial improvements in equipment and space expansion in the sound room. Additional improvements are under consideration as we move forward in planning for the future.

Special Recognition to our church staff who stepped up to make the transition from no church to a virtual one which appeared almost seamless. Rev. Fettig is recognized for his quick action in directing and assisting in implementing the changes. Scott and Art Kalemkarian have done an amazing job in the technical aspects of the production. Art has loaned his equipment and has spent tireless hours as a volunteer in this endeavor. Sebastian and Lisa have contributed musically and Sebastian learned a new skill in video editing that now includes the entire Praise Team. Sebastian and Carrie have shifted youth and children's programming to the new format. Sandy and Jasmine continue to hold down the office and are a constant presence. Thank you all for your dedication and hard work!

Session Highlights 2020.04.14

Finances – The impact of COVID-19 resulted in a 40% decline in giving for the month of March while expenses were up 8% for the first quarter versus same time last year. Session approved the Finance Committee's plan to apply for a small business loan under the new Federal Paycheck Protection loan program. If employees are retained within 10% of pre-loan levels the loan repayment will be forgiven. Employees are continuing to receive their salaries while working from home and church. Other options under consideration include refinancing the Franklin Street home mortgage and withdrawing some of its newly increased equity. A recent tax reassessment values the property at \$475,000 while we are retaining the property on the Balance Sheet at approximately \$444,000. Planned expenditures are also being reviewed to determine which expenses can be placed on hold. Efforts to remind congregants to continue their giving through mail or the online option were somewhat successful. Please give as you are able!

Safety Training – Safety training for staff and Session was completed on 4/15/20 via Zoom. The two-hour training was presented by Jim McGuffey, a nationally and internationally known safety expert for the private sector as well as churches. Planning for improving safety within the church for staff and congregants is continuing. Updates will be made available to congregants as they occur.

Summer Programs – Session reviewed the feasibility of continuing with two of the churches main summer programs; Banner Elk in July and VBS in August. It was determined that it was too early in the year to make a determination. VBS Save-the-Date for August 3-7 will soon be announced with the understanding that changes may occur given the evolving safety concerns of COVID-19.

Small Group Development and Leaders – Pastor Fettig announced that plan to implement more small group bible studies. Since it is not clear how soon the church will be able to reopen for services, small groups will encourage fellowship while addressing the spiritual needs of the congregation. Small group leaders are being sought! If you have an interest, please contact Pastor Fettig.

Safety and Technology Teams – two teams are being created in light of the new COVID-19 realities. One team will be comprised of medical experts within our congregation and will focus on how to safely conduct meetings when the church reopens. The technology team will focus on how to use technology to improve virtual meetings and communication for all congregants, not just that are computer literate!

The New Church Reality– the following article was shared with Session members by Pastor Fettig and was the basis for Session discussion as we look forward to reopening:

<https://journal.praxislabs.org/leading-beyond-the-blizzard-why-every-organization-is-now-a-startup-b7f32fb278ff>

Session Highlights 2020.02.11

Session discussed the departure of our faithful Associate Pastor, Nikki Passante. We will all miss her dedication and the personal connections she has made over these past 9 years. We wish her all of God's blessing in her new ministry in New Jersey.

Session also approved having one service on March 1st so that all members of the congregation may be present at Rev. Passante's farewell – please join us!

In order to fill the gap created by Nikki's departure and prior to the selection of a new Associate, Session approved the hiring of Rose Sparrow as Parish Associate! Rose will spend 20 hours/week doing visitation and assisting in other capacities.

The following services were also approved:

- Ash Wednesday, 2/26 at 7 PM with communion
- Maundy Thursday, 4/9 at 7 PM with communion
- Good Friday, 4/10, 11:00 AM – 1:30 PM
- One service on Sunday, 5/3 at 10:00 AM for confirmation/youth Sunday

Session met with Media Borough representatives who informed MPC that the sound barrier erected around the AC unit on Franklin St. was sufficient to mitigate the noise concerns. MPC also agreed to remove specific cement sidewalk sections so the Borough can plant new trees on Franklin St.

Session approved the transfer of \$45,000 from the MPC Reserve fund to Capital Reserve leaving a balance of \$17,000 in the MPC Reserve fund. These funds will be utilized for improvements on the church building.

Contributions in January were down 25% when compared to the same period last year. Please remember to make your contributions!

Session approved the hiring of Sean Michael McDonald as interim organist. Welcome aboard Sean!

Session approved hiring Jim McGuffey, a national expert on safety for houses of worship, for Active Shooter Training. This training will occur on 4/15/20 and other churches within the Presbytery will be invited.

Session Highlights 2020.01.14

The Financial Report for 2019 revealed a 2% increase in revenue and a 2% decrease in spending over 2018. Income minus expenses for the year revealed a surplus of \$32,649 which will be placed in the reserve fund and used for such things as ministry enhancement and building maintenance & improvements.

Session has begun the process of reviewing the revised *Personnel Policies for the Staff of MPC*.

Session approved the Children's Choice's request for a meeting room.

One baptism was approved!

Consultation has occurred with a number of external professional community and church safety experts to assist in guiding Session in how best to improve safety for staff and congregants.

A report was submitted to Session from Jack Schoen that was a survey conducted by an outside vendor to measure the noise decibel levels emanating from one of the A/C units on Franklin St. After review of this report and discussion of the overall situation, Session has directed that bids for replacement of this unit on Franklin St. be received by the next session meeting. In conjunction with that effort, the Property team will look into temporary measures which can help to reduce the noise emanating from the unit.

The Church's Annual Business Meeting is scheduled for February 23. There will be one combined service. Please mark your calendars!