SERMON NOTES | Acts 6:1-7 NRSV

Sun, Oct 25, 2026

Written by Rev. Dr. Alf Halvorson

Acts 6:1–7 shows a growing church responding to conflict, unmet needs, and cultural differences by listening carefully, clarifying callings, and empowering gifted people to serve. Use these questions to reflect on how faithful structure, shared leadership, and practical service can help a community embody and spread the Good News.

1. Where do you see "friction, confusion, and unmet needs" arising in churches, workplaces, families, or other communities? What faithful structure might help?

2. Read Acts 6:1-7. The Greek-speaking believers voiced a serious concern about neglected widows. What can this passage teach us about listening to complaints without becoming defensive?

3. Why was it important for the community to choose leaders who were in good standing, full of the Spirit, and full of wisdom? Which of these qualities is most often overlooked today?

4. The apostles protected their calling to prayer and proclamation while empowering others to lead practical ministry. What is your primary "lane," and what may you need to delegate or decline in service to a higher "yes"?

5. How might inviting people closest to a problem—or most affected by it—to help shape the solution, lead to wiser and more just outcomes?

6. Acts 6 connects healthy organization and shared service with the spread of God's Word. What is one concrete change that our group, our congregation, or you personally could make so that needs are met and no one is overlooked? Pray for God to show you a specific opportunity to make a difference—and the courage to act on it.

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Congregational Meeting Today
Following each service
There will be a brief rolling Congregational Meeting for the purpose of electing MDPC's 2029 Class of Officers and the members of the 2027 Nominating Committee.

Covenant Sunday
Next Sun, Nov 1
Many of you received your 2027 Covenant Package in your mailbox. **Be sure to bring your completed pledge card with you next Sunday, Nov 1!** Your pledge isn't a gift yet—it's your projection of next year's giving, which helps MDPC plan wisely for 2027 ministry expenses.

Aging Roadmap
Thursdays, Oct 29, Nov 5 & 12 | 1-3pm | Rm 122
The key to aging well is planning your aging journey. This free three-week program will help you determine your next steps! Details and registration: **roadmap.mdpc.org**

Reaching Gen Alpha
Fri & Sat, Nov 6 & 7
What's next for Gen Alpha? MDPC is hosting a two-day conference to help you discover new ways to engage 3 to 16-year-olds and help them grow in faith! $60 includes meals.
On Friday night, *everyone* is welcome to a free presentation for parents, with practical insights for understanding, supporting, and connecting with the next generation. Details about all the events: **exchange.mdpc.org**

Gingerbread House Event
Sat, Dec 5 | 9-10:30am OR 10:30am-Noon
Come enjoy a wonderful event to start the Christmas season! We provide the house, prepackaged icing, and candy buffet to help your family create your own special creation! $41/house. Registration closes Oct 31: **reach.mdpc.org**

Soup Squad
Tue, Nov 10 | 9:30am-1:30pm
Join Women's Ministry as we serve lunch to our neighbors experiencing homelessness in downtown Houston. Come make a difference through compassionate service! Learn more and register: **soupsquad.mdpc.org**

Veterans Coffee & Connection
Wed, Nov 11 | 9:30-11:30am | Parlor
Come enjoy a light breakfast and while connecting with other Veterans and Pastor Alf. All veterans are welcome, you do not need to be a church member to attend!

Women's Spiritual Retreat
Sat, Nov 14 | 9am-3:30pm
Margins: Making Room for God. What if the space you're trying to fill is actually space in which God is already present and active? Join women of all ages/stages as we breathe deeply, immerse ourselves in Scripture, and explore God's calling in the margins! Register: **margins.mdpc.org**

YA CityServe
Sat, Nov 14 | 9:30am-12pm
This monthly gathering is for young adults in their 20s and 30s who want to show up for their city while building genuine friendships We'll serve side by side, then grab lunch at a local spot. The Nov project is at Boys & Girls Country of Houston. Learn more and sign up: **cityserve.mdpc.org**

All-Church Lunch Next Sunday
Sun, Nov 4 | 11am-1pm
Plan to stay for food and fellowship! Menu and pricing: **ACL.mdpc.org**





As you enter worship, we kindly ask that you silence your cell phones.

8:30 BLENDED SERVICE

GATHERING

Call to Worship — Brett Hurst

*Songs of Praise — *Forever (Give Thanks to the Lord)*
Holy Holy Holy, Lord God Almighty

Confession & Assurance — Marcus Vajdos

Song of Response — *Great Is Thy Faithfulness*

Prayer — Brett Hurst

Worship Song — *So Much*

HEARING THE WORD

Message — **Interrupted & Sent: The Church Before the Building Structure Serves Mission** (Acts 6:1-7) — Alf Halvorson

RESPONDING

Offertory — *Goodness of God*

SENDING

*Benediction — Alf Halvorson

Congregational Meeting

9:45 CONTEMPORARY SERVICE

GATHERING

Call to Worship — Meliza Gómez

*Songs of Praise — *God So Loved* | *The Passion*

Confession & Assurance — Sally Henien

Worship Songs — *So Much* | *Way Maker*

HEARING THE WORD

Message — **Interrupted & Sent: The Church Before the Building Structure Serves Mission** (Acts 6:1-7) — Alf Halvorson

RESPONDING

Offertory — *Goodness of God*

Call to Respond — Jeff Taylor

SENDING

*Benediction — Alf Halvorson

Congregational Meeting

Blended and Contemporary Worship Leaders
MDPC Worship Team: Uvaldo Callejas, David Cavazos, Asher Pudlo, Will Story
Meliza Gómez, Contemporary Worship Director | Michael Middleton, Generational Worship Director

* Please stand, if comfortable.

11:15 TRADITIONAL SERVICE

GATHERING

Prelude — *Fantasy from Sonata No. 2* — Josef Rheinberger (1839-1901)

Call to Worship — Amy Delgado

Choral Introit — *Jesu, Joy of Man's Desiring* (Cantata 147 - Heart and Mouth and Deed and Life) — J.S. Bach

*Hymn of Praise — *Called as Partners in Christ's Service* | Vs. 1, 2, 4 — #343 | Beecher

*Confession and Assurance of Pardon — Amy Delgado

*Affirmation of Faith from 1 Corinthians 15:1-6 & Colossians 1:15-20

*Congregational Response — *Lead Me, Lord* — Samuel S. Wesley (1810-1876) from The Methodist Hymnal

HEARING THE WORD

Anthem of Preparation — *The Servant Song* — David Schwoebel (b. 1957)

Message — **Interrupted & Sent: The Church Before the Building Structure Serves Mission** (Acts 6:1-7) — Alf Halvorson

RESPONDING

*Hymn of Response — *I'm Gonna Live So God Can Use Me* | Vs. 1, 2, 3 — #369 | I'm Gonna Live

Call to Respond — Amy Delgado

Offertory — *God Has Work for Us to Do* — Mark A. Miller (b. 1956)

SENDING

*Doxology — *Praise God, from Whom All Blessings Flow* — #592 | Old 100th

*Benediction

Congregational Meeting

Postlude — *Canticle* — Aaron David Miller (b. 1974)

Traditional Worship Leaders
Sanctuary Choir | Megan Berti, Soloist
Kelley Edwards, Flutist | Kathryn White, Organist
Charles Hausmann, Traditional Worship Director

* Please stand, if comfortable.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

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Remember Our Frontline Mission Partners

MDPC partners in local and global ministry truly covet your prayers! Find out this week's prayer recipients by picking up the prayer booklet available around campus or visit **partners.mdpc.org**.

Financial Update as of Oct 18, 2026

2026 Annual Budget	$ 14,728,728
Actual Income to Date	10,348,573
Needed to Meet 2026 Budget	4,380,155