



SESSION DOCUMENTS

Mon, Feb 26, 2024

Memorial Drive Presbyterian Church

Loving God. Proclaiming Christ. Living Generously. Engaging All.

Session Meeting Agenda

February 26, 2024



Strategic Goals

2023-2028



1. **Call to Order and Opening Prayer** (Beth Case)
2. **Establishment of Quorum** (Bob Holloway)
3. **New Members** (Dan Aikins)
Bruce Connery, Lynne Connery, Susan Cornett, Allison Dotson, Zachary Dotson, Allison Farrell, Austin Freitas, Paige Graf, Robert Graf, Carter Grinstead, Laura Grinstead, Joan Lotz, Kari Malloy, Keith Malloy, Claire Nielsen, Regan Nielsen, Lauren Peyton, Catherine Reedy, Collin Reedy, Leigh Schaub, Blake Swoboda, Julie Swoboda, Jackie Vicars, Em Williams, Larry Williams
Motion: *to receive the above-named friends as Covenant Partners at MDPC.*
4. **Debrief Staff /Officer Retreat and Ongoing Succession Planning Ideas** (Alf Halvorson)
5. **Clerk's Report** (Bob Holloway)
 - ECO National Gathering Recap
6. **Finance Report** (Bob Davis and Marcus Vajdos)
7. **Church in the City God-Sightings and Immediate Impressions** (Rachel Poysky and Amy Delgado)

8. Communications Report on Analytics and Social Media (Ginny Glass and Christina Densmore)

9. Security Update (Carter Bliss and Christian Diaz)

10. Omnibus Agenda

a. Motion to approve the minutes of the January 26, 2024, Session Meeting at Stoney Creek Ranch.

11. Calendar Reminders

March 3	Alf Halvorson Preaching
March 3	Annual Congregational Meeting 12:30 p.m. in Fellowship Hall
March 10	Dan Aikins Preaching
March 17	Rachel Poysky Preaching
March 24	Alf Halvorson Preaching Palm Sunday
March 25	Session Meeting in Amphitheater , 6:30 p.m.
March 28	Maundy Thursday Sanctuary Beth Case Preaching
March 29	Good Friday Sanctuary Alf Halvorson Preaching
March 31	Easter Sunday Alf Halvorson Preaching

2024 Session Meeting Dates

January 26
February 26
March 25
April 22
May 20
June 24
July -No Meeting
August 26
September 23
October 28
November- No Meeting
December 16

12. Announcements and Additional Business

13. Adjournment & Closing Prayer (Beth Case)

Motion to adjourn the February 2024 Session Meeting.

MINUTES OF THE STATED MEETING OF THE SESSION
Memorial Drive Presbyterian Church
January 26, 2024

Elders Present: Chris Arend, Sandy Ballard, Rick Bradford, Ellen Davidson, Bob Davis, Stephanie Espinoza, Jennifer Fernelius, Ginny French, Bob Holloway, Sarah Kilgore, Alex Knoop, Sara Kuhn, Marc Laney, Madison Limbacher, Stefano Lugo-Doval, Michael McCormack, Laura Miller, Christina Morse, Mike Pelton, Kathy Redden, Sharon Roark, David Shelfer, Leslie Sloan, Nathan Stedham, Joe Stockdale, Bill Swenson, Jeff Taylor, Ryan Taylor, Mandy Todd, Kyle Wienert, Mat Yelvington

Deacons Present: Nancy Blurton, Penny Bryant, Rodrigo Grassano, David Harkins, John LaCarter, Nancy Powell, Christine Roskamp, Lisa Shelfer, Laura Tingleaf, Suzanne Tobin, Andy Udden, Brenda Vega, Sue Warren, Paul Whelchel

Pastors Present: Dan Aikins, Beth Case, Almir Dias, Alf Halvorson, Rachel Poysky, Guillermo Yela

Other Staff Present: Miah Collins, Amy Delgado, Christina Densmore, Mayra Escamilla, Beverly Fluke, Christine Gentil, Charlie Giesler, Ginny Glass, Meliza Gomez, Sally Henein, David Higginbotham, Mitchell Kearney, Julie LaRue, Amy Layman, Ashley Michels, Michael Middleton, Jennifer Vajdos, Marcus Vajdos, Ashton Wascom

Call to Order: Pastor Alf called the meeting of the Session of Memorial Drive Presbyterian Church to order at 7:35 pm in Z-Hall, Stoney Creek Ranch, New Ulm, Texas where our officers and staff were gathered for our annual retreat. Pastor Alf thanked us for making the time to be there and challenged us in “Being Present” as an offering to God.

Call for Quorum: The Clerk Elect, Bob Holloway, affirmed that a quorum was present.

Ice Breaker: (Rachel Poysky)

Second Reading of the 2024 Budget: (Marcus Vajdos and Bob Davis)

Bob and Marcus shared a 2023 Year End Summary before presenting the new budget with an increase of roughly 4%. **Motion to approve the 2024 Budget** carried.

Omnibus Motion:

1. Omnibus Motion

- a. **Motion to approve the minutes of the December 11, 2023, Session Meeting.**
- b. **Motion from Worship and Music to approve the additional baptism date of April 21, 2024.**
- c. **Motion to approve the following baptisms performed in January 2024:**

Name	Age	Parents	Member	Date
Julianna Margot Coleman	Infant	Allison Poarch and Thomas Coleman	Mom-Yes; Dad-No	1/21/2024
Graham Gerry Freer	Infant	Jacklyn Couey and David Freer	Mom-No; Dad-Yes	1/21/2024
Clayton Gregory Kerl	Infant	Lauren Bender and Cameron Kerl	Mom-Yes; Dad-No	1/21/2024
Philippa "Pippa" Grey Linder	Infant	Lauren Hill and Adam John Linder	Mom-Yes; Dad-No	1/21/2024
Wyatt James McCormack	Infant	Kelsi and Michael McCormack	Yes	1/21/2024

Fiona Grace McClaren	Infant	Ashley and Duncan McLaren	Mom-Yes; Dad-No	1/21/2024
Louise Reynolds Smith	Infant	Hunter Reynolds and Roy Smith	Yes	1/21/2024

d. Motion to approve the following New Member Class Dates for 2024:

Weekend Class: Friday, February 9 and Saturday, February 10
 4-Week Sunday Class: April 7, 14, 21, 28
 Weekend Class: Friday, June 14 and Saturday, June 15
 4-Week Sunday Class: September 8, 15, 22, 29
 Weekend Class: Friday, November 15 and Saturday, November 16

e. Transfers and Dismissals

Please **transfer** the following active members:

Ashcroft, Susan to St. Cecelia Episcopal Church, Round Top, TX.

Roby, Trae and Amy to First Presbyterian Church, Rockport, TX.

Please **dismiss** the following active members:

Hagen, Michael and Joan.

f. Motion to approve Outreach Partner funding for January 2024 as follows:

Consent Agenda items:

1. 2024 Congregational Collection Approval

- Palm Sunday Offering (Living Water International)
- Mission Market (Partners to be finalized in Fall 2024)
- Christmas Eve Offering (Partners to be finalized in Fall 2024)

2. Outreach Ministry- Funding Report for December

a. Mission Market 2023 (\$28,294.36 divided by purchaser selection)

- The Antioch Partners \$1,246.76
- Buckner Children & Family Services, Designated: Aldine Location \$983.31
- East Spring Branch Food Pantry \$2,143.34
- Faith in Practice \$3,096.43
- Free Wheelchair Mission \$1,698.76
- His Grace Foundation \$1,013.53
- Living Water International \$4,644.04
- Loving Houston \$982.98
- Grace International Children's Foundation, Designated: Lulwanda Children's Home \$2,930.74
- The Micah Project \$1,739.52
- Mission of Yahweh \$2,103.53
- Parent Project Muscular Dystrophy \$886.76
- Pars Theological Centre \$2,546.42

- Prestige Learning Institute \$1,065.17
- Prison Entrepreneurship Program \$1,213.07

b. Christmas Eve 2023 (\$81,972.15 divided evenly among below)

- The Antioch Partners, Designated: Adair \$6,831.02
- Frontier Fellowship, Designated: Biru \$6,831.02
- Common Ground Consultants, Designated: Burns \$6,831.02
- CRU, Designated: Missionary #0638840 \$6,831.01
- Steven and Natalie Hall \$6,831.01
- Frontiers, Designated: Missionary #004554 \$6,831.01
- YWAM, Designated: Personal Support (Johnson) \$6,831.01
- Allegro Organizational Solutions, Designated: Acct# NYC-BB.KSJ \$6,831.01
- The Antioch Partners, Designated: Leina and Salam \$6,831.01
- Action International Ministries, Designated: Acct# 47001 \$6,831.01
- Frontier Fellowship, Designated: Mc Nerney \$6,831.01
- Novo, Designated: Acct# 6781 Zovak \$6,831.01

2. Calendar Reminders

January 28	Alf Halvorson Preaching Communion
January 29-Feb 1	ECO National Gathering- Greenville, SC
February 4	Alf Halvorson Preaching
February 11	Alf Halvorson Preaching
February 18	Alf Halvorson Preaching
February 25	Church in the City
February 26	Session Meeting in Chapel, 6:30 p.m.
March 3	Annual Congregational Meeting 12:30 p.m. in Fellowship Hall

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Additional Business and Announcements

Church in the City- 2/25! Encourage those in your area to sign up! Onsite projects for littles and mobility challenge to encourage most to get out in our city.

There being no additional business or announcements, Alf asked for a motion to adjourn which was forthcoming, seconded and approved. We closed the meeting at 8:30. We ended our time together with prayer.

Minutes respectfully submitted on behalf of Bob Holloway, Clerk.

Jennifer Vajdos, January 2024

**Combined Minutes of the Session Committees
February 2024**

Caring Ministries Committee Minutes:

February 20, 2024

Ministry Reports

Card-writing:

- The Branches group held its monthly meeting in January to send handwritten notes to MDPC members who had been in the hospital/rehab, lost a loved one, or just needed encouragement. They also sent care cards to those who are staying in the MDPC-sponsored apartments in the Medical Center.
- The five dedicated Prayer Chain writers took turns writing to those on the Prayer Chain list.

Community Relations:

- The **Coming-of-Age Series** concluded with a requested workshop on January 24 entitled “Financial Planning for Now & Later”. David Harkins’ team from Merrill Lynch were the guest speakers and they shared a wealth of information on financial planning. The recording of this session and all the previous Coming of Age sessions can be found on the MDPC website under Media/Watch & Listen.

Dementia and Caregiver Support:

- **The Gathering Place:** The Gathering Place, now meeting the first Wednesday of every month, had 8 care partners, 8 caregivers, and 10 volunteers this month. Nancy Blurton led the group in exercise, complete with pompoms. Rick and Gracie Myers were our special guests; they led us in worship and music and helped us make Valentine’s cards. Lunch was served, and we played Bingo.
- **Caregiver Support Group:** The group meets for lunch at MDPC to support one another on the 3rd Thursday of each month. For more information, contact Beverly Fluke or deacon Penny Bryant at phb14@comcast.net.

Grief Support:

- **Transforming Grief:** The spring series of the Transforming Grief program is scheduled for April 3 – May 22, on Wednesdays at 4:30-6:00pm. (It’s being offered later in the spring than usual due to Holy Week and other events in March.) Registration is open at grief.mdpc.org. Contact Beverly Fluke for more information.
- **The Widows Connection:** This friendly group meets monthly for social gatherings. The next outing will be lunch at La Madeleine (location on Westheimer near the Beltway) on February 27. All widows are invited. Contact Beverly Fluke or deacon Judy Stockton for more information.
- **Ministry of Presence:** Caring Ministries staff and officers send out cards and grief books to MDPC members during their first year of losing a loved one.

Health Ministry -- Blood Drive:

- Our friends at Gulf Coast Regional Blood Center reported that we had 16 donors and 23 products at the MDPC-hosted Blood Drive on February 11, 2024. The goal GCRBC had for us that day was 15 donors and 18 products; it was good to surpass that!

Home Communion: Anyone who is not able to participate in the regularly scheduled communion services on campus is invited to request home communion. Requests can be made by contacting Beth Case or Beverly Fluke or online at homecommunion.mdpc.org.

Home Visitation:

- The **Home Visitation** team visits homebound members each month. Please contact Jim Newlin, Visitation Deacon, at jnewlin@comcast.net or Beverly Fluke if you would like to join the team &/or recommend someone you know who can't make it to church on Sundays and would welcome a monthly visit.

Memorial Services:

- January – 2 memorial services with receptions and 2 inurnments in the Columbarium

Prayer Ministry:

- Daily Prayers have been sent via email to all Partners in Prayer. While we remain grateful for the technology that allows us to host lists on the MPDC App, and share them via email, Annette Erickson has also made sure that hard copies of lists and prayers are available to those who prefer a paper copy.
- A Prayer Room, entitled "The Silent Word" is being prepared for Holy Week; on March 24, Deacons and Staff will set up the Parlor to host any and all congregants who desire to walk through. The hours of this prayer room will be:

Mon-Wed • Open 24 Hours

Thu, Apr 6 • Open until 9:00pm

Fri, Apr 7 • 10:00am-2:00pm

Sat, Apr 8 • 10:00am-1:00pm

Easter Sun, Apr 9 • 7:00am-1:00pm

All generations welcome at all times!

Second Family:

- Second Family volunteers expended 99 hours to support their care partners during January 2024.
- We currently have 13 care partners and have been busy attending to each care partner's special needs. Visitation of our care partners keeps us very busy each month. Visitation is most beneficial to check on their health and if they need anything. Several care partners are taken on long walks and to lunch every week with long visitations. Others are brought special meals that they could not get for themselves. We take several of our care partners to medical appointments, hair appointments, grocery stores and any other errand they may need assistance with. Older adults who regularly participate in social activities have stronger immune systems and higher life satisfaction. Loneliness increases several mental and physical health risks. Visiting our care partners regularly may help them stay healthy longer. Our care partners are very thankful and happy and that makes it very rewarding for "Second Family".
- Mobile meals are delivered on Mondays and Thursdays of every week, and we now have 5 deliveries with 4 stops.

Senior Adult Ministry:

- The monthly **Senior Adult newsletter** was mailed to about 110 families in January and February. The newsletter contains descriptions of upcoming activities of Venturers, Encore Fellowship, Prime Timers, and Senior Adult Fellowship lunch. Information for Senior events and activities is also online at seniors.mdpc.org.
- **Venturers:** The Venturers met and had dinner at Fratelli's on February 5, and 45 heard Dr. Paul Klotman (President of Baylor College of Medicine) talk about the college and its many activities and research. On March 4, we will hear Russ Arnold of the Houston Livestock & Rodeo.

- **Encore Fellowship:** On January 29, the group met at Carrabba's for dinner and socialization. On February 3, 44 attended the Stratford Playhouse production of *42nd Street*. On February 24, they plan to go to Houston Botanical Garden to see the Radiant Light Show.
- **Prime Timers:** On February 21, Prime Timers will go to Galveston to visit the Railroad Museum.
- **Senior Adult Fellowship Lunch:** The monthly Senior Adult Lunch is held at MDPC to have lunch, meet new friends, and learn more about existing friends. Lunch was held on January 22 (18 attended) and will be held again on February 26. Beginning in March, the lunches will be on the third Monday of each month through August.
- **Special Event:** We are planning to have Lt. Guinn of Precinct 5 make a presentation on August 8. He made a presentation last year on Active Shooter Response. Planning for this event is ongoing.

Stephen Ministry:

- The Stephen Ministry team met twice in January for supervision and then gathered to participate in the commissioning of Tim Tade as a new Stephen Leader during the 8:30am worship service on February 11.
- A new Stephen Ministry training class began on January 23 and will meet weekly through May 28, for a total of 50 training hours. There are 10 trainees from MDPC and 4 trainees from Grace Presbyterian Church in the class.

Next CM Meeting: March 19

Children's Ministries Committee Minutes:

January 9, 2024

Committee Members Present:

Keri Mosk, Myra Escamilla, Melissa Goeden, Mimi Well, Laura Tingleaf, Micheal Kringel, Ellen Davidson, Kristin Anderson, Sarah Kilgore, Miriam Baraya, Guillermo Yela, Ciria Yela, and Damaris Abreu

- Keri Mosk provided the devotional and welcomed new members Ellen Davidson, Elementary Elder, and Sarah Kilgore, Preschool Deacon.
- **Announcements-** Easter Village is March 30, 2024. Everyone was encouraged to sign up for a volunteer shift. There are two openings in Children's Ministry; one position is for Director of Children's Ministry, and the second position, a new position, is for a 4th & 5th grade Coordinator.
- **The Little School/ Yellow School Update** – No one was present to provide update.
- **Elementary Update** –Melissa's last full-time day will be January 14, 2024. She will continue to work Blast Off which will run January 24th through April 3rd. Pizza party dates: January 21st- Kindergarten & 1st grade. February 4th - 2nd & 3rd grade. April 14th -4th & 5th grade. More story tellers are needed for Sunday mornings.
- **Preschool Update-** 41 kids were in attendance this past Sunday. The Curriculum may be changing.
- **Kaleidoscope/Safe Haven Update** – Attendance has been down. The older kids continue to go to youth at 11:15am. Keri is working on booking a family camp for the fall for Kaleidoscope and Safe Haven.
- **Fuente Update** – Guillermo expressed that Fuente is very happy to be involved in the children's ministry. He introduced Ciria, his wife, and Darmris. They both will be working with the children's ministry.
- **BPC Update** – No one was present to provide update.
- **Childcare Plus Update** – April Parents Night Out was cancelled. On the morning of April 13th, the Birds & Bees Seminar will be offered to parents of children up to 10 years old. The seminar will aim to equip the parents with a Christ centered way to teach their children about sexuality and reproduction. Childcare will be provided for elementary and younger. Mimi said that she will lower attendance for Parents Night Out from 100 kids to 85 kids. The registration age has been lowered to 10 years old and under.

February 6, 2024

Committee Members Present:

Keri Mosk, Myra Escamilla, Mimi Well, Heather Tackett, Laura Tingleaf, Micheal Kringel, Ellen Davidson, Hannah Harrington, Brenda Vega, and Damaris Abreu

- Michael Kringel provided the devotional.
- Heather Tackett presented the new First Time Visitor registration forms. The forms can be found at the check-in stations and the preschool desk. Parents need to be encouraged to fill out the forms completely. The completed forms are used to assign the children to a classroom and to print name tags.
- **Elementary Update** –Two pizza parties have been completed for Kindergarten /1st grade and 2nd /3rd grade. The pizza party for 4th & 5th grade will be in April. There has been some interest in the Elementary Director position. Two new resumes were received this week for Summer Internships. Emma Todd will be one of the summer interns. Registration for Summer Celebration begins March 4th. Mission Extreme registration begins March 18th. Birds & Bees registration is now open on the website, and free childcare is available.
- **Preschool Update**- A 3-year-old boy at the Yellow School has been diagnosed with Leukemia. Prayers are requested for him and his family. There is a new mom outreach. If you know a new mom, Sarah will drop off an encouragement package to her. Preschool Serve Day will be held the first Sunday of the month. Last weekend was the first one, and the children helped set up lunch in the fellowship hall.
- **Childcare Plus Update**- Parents Night Out will be held this Saturday night. 104 kids signed up. Friday night and Saturday morning childcare will be provided for the new member class. Three 17-year-olds have been hired to help with PNO and Easter services.
- **Kaleidoscope/Safe Haven Update** – We are averaging 3-5 kids at 9:45am and 1-2 kids at 11:15am. Family camp will be booked soon for Kaleidoscope and Safe Haven families. Once an Elementary Director is hired, Parents Night Out will be brought back. Tomorrow is the first day of the Special Needs Mom's book club. Eleven people are signed up to attend.
- **The Little School/ Yellow School Update** – Rodeo parade will be February 23rd. Book fair will be held March 19th-22nd.
- **Fuente Update** – The first young adults meeting was last Sunday. Youth groups start this Sunday. We had 60 children registered for presents at Christmas. Phone calls are being made to these families trying to find out why they are not coming to church.
- **BPC Update** – The first teachers training of the year was held. BPC will celebrate its 20th year this month. A pastor from Brazil will be here for the celebration. The kids Valentine party will be on February 18th.

Next Meeting – March 5, 2024

Finance Committee Minutes:

Prepared by Bob Davis

A meeting of the **Memorial Drive Presbyterian Church Finance Committee** was held on January 22, 2024, at 5:15 PM in the **Pastor's Conference Room**.

The meeting was opened in Prayer.

Roll Call

Member	Office	Attending	Note
Marcus Vajdos	Chief Operating Officer	X	
Dena Bankett	Finance Director		Out of Office
Bob Holloway	Clerk of Session		Vacation
Mandy Todd	Personnel Elder	X	Online
Oliver Aldrich,	2023 Retiring Treasurer		
Bob Davis	Treasurer	X	
Chris Arend	Treasurer Elect	X	
Kyle Wienert	Treasurer Elect-Elect	X	
Bill Swenson	Generosity Elder		
Tom Braschayko	Outreach Elder		
Rosy Pereira	At Large	X	
Karin Tyson	At Large	X	
Matt Fleming	At Large		

Approval of minutes

There were no meeting minutes available for December.

Reports

Marcus Vajdos presented FYE internal and preliminary financial statements on the projector screen. The statements had just been presented to Marcus, moments prior to the meeting. No hard copies of the FYE statements were available for preview.

Of note was a shortfall in Budgeted Contributions for 2023. There was some confusion about the exact amount due to the preliminary nature of the statements. The apparent shortfall was approximately \$130k.

On the expense side, expenses for the FYE were approximately \$80k over the budgeted amount.

The net budget shortfall was therefore approximately \$210k.

Unfinished business

Because of the net Budget shortfall, the FC considered the Session Passed Motion from December 2021 which established a reserve account, having the apparent purpose of supplementing and honoring MDPC's communicated Outreach Giving for the completed year (in this case, 2023) and to protect budgeted labor dollars for the next year. The Reserve Fund was given no name and no changes or edits occurred to MDPC's chart of accounts. The amount of the reserve account fund was set as \$650k. The FC worked to understand how the Motion was intended to function.

The FC will do more work to understand the full intent of the Motion and work to understand if policies or rules need to be established to honor 2021 Session's Motion.

It became apparent the net amount of reserves needed to honor budgeted Outreach spending was approximately \$42k.

New Business

A Meeting Agenda Template was introduced. The Template was presented to provide a guideline of items that can be/should be considered by the FC.

Motion

There was no formal Motion presented, by effective acclamation, the FC decided to recommend to Session the use of \$42k be transferred from the above-mentioned Reserve Fund and used to pay budgeted Outreach Grants.

Announcements

The Stoney Creek Ranch Retreat for Staff, Elders, and Deacons is set for January 23-24, 2024.

The next FC Meeting is set for Monday, February 19, 2024, at 5:15 PM

The meeting was closed in Prayer.

The meeting adjourned at approximately 6:15 PM

Generosity Committee Minutes:

Wednesday, February 7, 2024

Prepared by Ginny Glass

In attendance: Bill Swenson, Michael McCormack, Jeannie Able, Chris Arend, Joe Stockdale, Nathan Stedham, Alf Halvorson, Hunter Smith, Marcus Vajdos, Ginny Glass, and Kate Brock

Absent: Ava Caliendo, Colby Mueck

Bill opened the meeting in prayer, followed by introductions from committee members.

Bill and Alf gave a brief history of pledging trends over the past few years, and Marcus presented the financial numbers in Ava's absence. He also talked about the specific data that Ministry Platform can provide to the committee.

Discussed the end of the year shortfall, and Marcus advised the committee that Session voted to fulfill our full 2023 Outreach obligations (approximately \$45K) but noted that that amount would have to be added back into the 2024 budget.

The committee discussed our 2023 committee goals of a 5% increase in pledges (550); and noted that we actually received 602 pledges. Alf posed the question “What is our baseline?” Should we add 10% to that achieved amount or base it off the goal? The committee decided to table this decision until later in the year.

Bill led a discussion regarding this year’s theme and put forth a recommendation that we keep the same theme (Team MDPC) as last year and continue to add to and grow that. We mentioned how it could work well with Leadership Transfer (the idea of going from the farm team to the majors, coming in off the bench). All agreed to keep Team MDPC for 2024.

Michael McCormack talked about his role on the Facilities Committee and the importance of keeping abreast of needed improvements to our building and grounds, particularly when asking our members to contribute.

Bill asked if there were any agenda ideas for the upcoming meetings and asked that members let him know what they would like to see addressed.

While considering Fuente and the Brazilian Church’s involvement in giving and how to best reach those groups, a member suggested inviting Pastors Almir and Guillermo to a future meeting so that we could all discuss it in person. The committee heartily agreed.

Pastor Alf closed the meeting in prayer.

Young Adult Ministries Minutes:

Jan 14th, 2024

Meeting Highlights:

1. **Check-in and Opening:**

- Sally initiated a check-in on each other’s Christmas experiences.
- Edneia opened the meeting in prayer.

2. **Icebreaker - Drawing Closer to God:**

- Edneia led an icebreaker where each member shared habits fostering closeness to God.
- The member shared habits included connecting with Sunday school groups, dedicated prayer time, deep study of God’s creation, focusing on a yearly goal, and setting specific prayer times.

3. **Devotional - The Rule of Life:**

YA - LEAD
meeting notes.

YA FRAMEWORK
Connect | Grow | Engage

PARTICIPANTS
Connor Smith, Sally Henien,
Lacee Dusek, Georgia Drager,
Edneia Moreira, Sara Kuhn,
Stefano Doval, Yvonne Ramirez,
Argentina Barrios, Luke Tucker

- Sally introduced "The Rule of Life" by Peter Scazzero, a spiritual resource for cultivating rhythm and intentional focus on God.
- The team watched a video and crafted personal Rules of Life, emphasizing the centrality of God in their plans. The Rule of life helps individuals reflect on how the love of God influences every aspect of life. YAs filled out a document that broke down their life into 4 categories: Prayer, Rest, Relationships, and Work.
- Sally explained the exercise's purpose for faith and leadership development, to be used in the upcoming Worship Night on Jan 18, 2024.
- Positive feedback received, with a commitment to ongoing leadership growth.

4. **Feedback on Past Events:**

- Members shared positive feedback on past events: Christmas Party, College Outreach, and Advent Season. Feedback included: fun to connect with new YAs across the various Sunday School Classes, nice meeting in a home, mocktail bar was a hit, games and high energy community was well liked.
- Suggestions for 2024 Christmas Party planning, considering venue options and accommodating a growing attendance. May need to review event location, potentially.

5. **Upcoming Events and Reminders:**

- **HCU Taco Lunch on Feb 6th | 9am – 2pm:** Call for volunteers and food contributions. Products can be dropped at MDPC.
- Sally emphasized sharing this information across groups and connections.
- Reminder to review onsite vs. offsite options for the 2024 Christmas party plan meeting.
- Importance of friendliness highlighted during outreach events with college students.

6. **College Outreach and Planning:**

- Sara working on gaining access to the college students' database for outreach initiatives.
- Plans for January "welcome back to college" package/email and Valentine's Day initiatives discussed further on Jan 16th at 10 am.

7. **Galentine's Day and Men's Event:**

- Reminder of **Ladies Paint Night on Feb 13th at 7 pm.**
- Connor and Luke working on organizing a Men's Event. Ideas include watching F1 or K1 race in late February. Final plans to be shared on Feb 4th.

8. **YA Worship Night - Jan 18th at 7 pm:**

- Encouragement for attendance and participation in the event.
- Theme: How do we prioritize Jesus in 2024.
- Agenda includes worship, mission partner prayer, a testimony by Miah, Rule of Life teaching by Sally, table discussions for personal reflections, and refreshments.
- Call for team members to share the event and express interest in being table facilitators.

9. **Final Thoughts & Next Meeting Confirmation:**

- Argentina asked about NEXT's Bible study agenda. Sally will share it later.
- The lead team confirmed the next meeting on Feb 4th from 12:15 to 2 pm at MDPC.

10. **Closing:**

- Sara closed the meeting in prayer.

[Feb 04th, 2024 | 12:15 -2pm | MDPC Room 103](#)

YA FRAMEWORK

Connect | Grow | Engage

PARTICIPANTS

Connor Smith, Sally Henien,
Lacee Dusek, Georgia Drager,
Edneia Moreira, Sara Kuhn,
Argentina Barrios,
Luke Tucker

Icebreaker and Reflections:

Edneia commenced the meeting with prayer and led an icebreaker session during lunch. We were delighted to have Amanda (guest from Texas A&M area) and Rachel Poysky join us for this engaging activity. The icebreaker was designed to foster deeper connections within our leadership team through a "get to know you" exercise, encouraging us to share unique aspects of ourselves that others may not be aware of.

Devotional and Character Reflections:

Sara led a thought-provoking devotional moment, prompting us to reflect on Christ-like characteristics we admire in others, those we possess, and areas we're actively developing. It was a beautiful exchange of insights, **with qualities like** supportiveness, gentleness, openness, vulnerability, and grace highlighted. **We**

celebrated our strengths in empathy, active listening, and loyalty while **acknowledging areas for growth such** as listening, forgiveness, patience, obedience, intentionality, and grace.

Rule of Life Review:

Sally facilitated a discussion on our progress with the Rule of Life goals pertaining to work, relationships, prayer, and rest. It was uplifting to hear that overall, the team is enjoying the journey and witnessing positive changes in our relationship with God, including improvements in prayers and rest. We recognized the importance of sharing this experience with our loved ones and the need to adjust our plans and set boundaries to ensure successful implementation. Sally's closing remarks served as a gentle reminder to view the Rule of Life as a guiding resource on our **individual paths** to draw closer to God, reassuring us that it's okay to progress step by step. The goal is to first draw closer to Jesus individually and as a lead team so that we can lead others.

Missional Habits and Collective Reflection:

Sally shared insights from the ECO National Conference, particularly on missional habits BELLS (Bless, Eat, Listen, Learn, Sent). The missional habit BELL consist on:

Bless — bless three people — a) nonbeliever, b) believer within MDPC YA community c) a person of your choice — family, friend, neighbor, co-worker...

Eat — Eat a meal with 3 people — a) nonbeliever, b) believer within MDPC YA community c) a person of your choice — family, friend, neighbor, co-worker...

Listen — spend at least one hour this week listening for the Spirit's voice and worshipping God via listening to reflection, meditation. The goal is to quiet yourself to be open to what God is saying.

Learn — spend 1 hour a week reading God's word. This time of learning will help us learn more about Christ but ultimately lead to life transformation. Get in the habit of opening the Bible and reading God's word daily.

Sent — Live a life on mission: Love and serve those in your area of influence/circle: pray for them, take time to understanding the needs around us, and then reach out to someone and share the good news/meet a physical need.

We collectively brainstormed ways to incorporate these habits into our lives and ministry to support our development as a Young Adult leadership team. We agreed to kickstart with "B" (Bless) this month, with each team member tasked with blessing 3 individuals (nonbeliever, believer, another person of their choice) with the goal of focusing on building relational connections, learning more about other individual, sharing our stories and God's story (the gospel).

Here are the list of current community groups represented within YA lead team. YA Lead Team members will intentionally reach out to members within their communities for the BELLS challenge:

Parish: Luke, Connor, Sally

NEXT / College: Sara, Lacey, Georgie

Young Professionals: Edneia, Sally

YA Fuente: Argentina, Stefano, Yvonne

Upcoming Events and New Initiatives:

Sally highlighted several upcoming events:

- Feb 13th 7-9pm at MDPC: Galentine's Day Ladies Paint night. Ladies are invited to bring a dish to share, if they would like. Food will be provided otherwise. Hannah Key, a professional artist will be attending and plans to share her testimony/life journey through mental health. She will also share how God uses her vocation as an artist to bring glory to Him and it's become an expression of worship.
- Feb 13th Guys night - 6:30pm at Torchy's, 8pm MDPC gym is all set and good to go.
- Feb 20th - YA worship night at MDPC from 7-9pm. The theme will revolve around Valentine's Day: love, relationships, and marriage. Team suggested inviting Brett and Kellie Hurst to help facilitate a panel of couples to share about their relationships. Sally will frame the agenda and share it with the group. The YA lead team agreed to attend the event and support where needed.
- MDPC Church in the City will host a new location this year focusing on YA college students on Saturday February 24th. This site, led by Dan Aikins and Sally Henien will grill/serve burgers, play sports, and engage in conversations with HCU Students. Sally asked the group to share the event in their community and support engagement for more volunteers. YAs are also welcome to serve on Sunday at other sites promoted. Several parish Sunday school class members plan to serve at the Houston Food Bank. NEXT class plans to serve on Saturday at HCU.

The group expressed willingness to create two new events:

MDPC Pickleball Grand Opening – Georgia suggested we could get together to connect, play, and eat with the YA community when the courts at MDPC are completed. Potential month: TBD.

Crawfish Party: An outdoor event that could be hosted at the church or in an outside place. We could gather to connect, play, and eat with the YA community. Potential month – April/2024. Luke agreed to lead this event and engage the group as needed.

YAs discussed it is often easier to introduce non-church friends to events that happen outside of the church. It seems to be less intimidating and helps non-church friends connect with others within the MDPC YA community in a neutral, casual gathering.

YA Sunday Morning Table Connection:

Edneia shared about setting up tables outside the sanctuary on Sunday mornings to connect with YA as they leave the 9:45 worship service. She will be sharing the sign-up link in Discord for team members to support this initiative. **Final Thoughts and Closing:**

We concluded the meeting with gratitude and anticipation for the next steps in our journey.

The date for our next meeting will be decided through Discord. Georgia closed the meeting with a heartfelt prayer, uplifting our spirits.