

**MOUNT PLEASANT PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH (USA)**  
**Stated Session Meeting Digest**  
**August 24, 2021**

**CALL TO ORDER.**

The meeting was called to order with prayer at 6:30 pm. in the Sanctuary by Associate Pastor Bart Edwards who moderated the meeting. Ruling Elder Theresa Reed gave the devotional on the need for us to not let our lights be dimmed by the troubles of the world. The Lord's Supper was celebrated. The meeting then moved to the Fellowship Hall.

**CONSENT AGENDA**

1. Approval of minutes: July 27, 2021 stated session meeting  
August 2, 2021 called session meeting
2. Approval of excused absences
3. Admit/Approve routine changes to the membership rolls:

**CLERK'S REPORT**

The Lord's Supper was celebrated by the congregation on July 27 and August 1 and by the Session at its retreat on August 14, 2021

**COMMITTEE REPORTS**

**A. FINANCE & STEWARDSHIP**

| As of July 31, 2021 | Actual YTD     | Budgeted YTD   |
|---------------------|----------------|----------------|
| Total Revenues      | \$1,055,562.89 | \$1,635,203.00 |
| Total Expenses      | \$1,373,663.90 | \$1,704,775.43 |
| Net Total           | (\$318,101.01) | (\$69,572.43)  |

|               | Operating | Temporary Restricted | Endowment   |
|---------------|-----------|----------------------|-------------|
| Bank Balances | \$163,883 | \$416,194            | \$1,350,360 |

The line of credit with Pinnacle Bank has been renewed for a period of two years.

- B. MISSION MPPC will be hosting six CAJM house meetings in September. ESOL is planning on resuming in the fall. Contact has been made with Haiti Outreach Ministries after the recent earthquake. The team has agreed to provide \$2800 from the local emergency fund for Carolina Youth Development.
- C. PERSONNEL Searches are underway for a Director of Children's Ministries, Director of Music, and organist.
- D. PROPERTY AND GROUNDS A nighttime part-time custodian has been hired. Fellowship Hall audio systems, alarm panels, and partitions need repair and/or upgrades.
- E. WORSHIP A farewell reception was held for Barbara Loehr-Fox on August 8. A Blessing of the Animals Service will be held October 3.
- F. CHRISTIAN EDUCATION The Rally Day celebration will be held September 15 with all ministries invited to set up information booths. *Wednesdays at the Well* will commence August 22.

- G. CONGREGATIONAL NOMINATING COMMITTEE      The committee moved the two items which were approved:
1. The CNC moves that the session call a congregational meeting to follow the 11:000 AM worship service on Sunday September 12, 2021 for the purpose of electing one deacon to the class of 2022 and one deacon to the class of 2024.
  2. The CNC moves that the session elect a commission consisting of ruling elders Anne Farmer and ac Thigpen, and Moderator Bart Edwards for the purpose of examining, and if the way be clear, approving the installation of those deacons elected at the congregational meeting of September 12, 2021.
- H. FELLOWSHIP AND CONGREGATIONAL LIFE  
A church-wide picnic was held August 15. Planning for Rally Day is underway.

### **NEW BUSINESS**

- A. Ruling Elders J. Deavor, A. Farmer, A. Jenkins, J. Scott, and M. Thigpen were elected as commissioners to the September 18 stated meeting of Charleston Atlantic Presbytery.
- B. COVID CURRENT SITUATION      Ruling Elder Dr. T. Steyer, MD gave a report on the current COVID-19 health situation in the Charleston area. In consultation with the session, per the action of the session at the May 25th stated meeting, the moderator is enacting the following protocols:
- General**
- MPPC strongly urges all individuals (staff, volunteers, congregants, and visitors) to be fully vaccinated as soon as possible.
  - When required, masks must cover both the mouth and nose.
- Worship-**
- Masks are **required** for all individuals in attendance of **indoor** worship services. (exception: children under 2).
  - Social distancing should be observed whenever possible. The balcony will remain open as well as the Fellowship Hall for overflow and livestreaming as needed for on campus worship.
- Building Access & Other Indoor Events**
- Masks are **required** for all individuals inside MPPC, with the following exceptions
  - When alone in a closed office or room.
  - When all adults in a private meeting have given prior consent.
  - Social distancing should be observed whenever possible. Allowing for an appropriate social distance will be considered when scheduling rooms for meetings/groups and should be maintained by each group.
- Additional Recommendations**
- *Recommend and encourage* all committee meetings and adult classes and/or gatherings, when possible, to use Zoom.

C. WHAT WE ARE LEARNING FROM COVID      Director of Christian Education Dan Wiard reported on behalf of the task force the following recommendations:

1. Encourage church members to intentionally reach out to one another and stay connected
2. Explore and act on digital technology in all spaces of worship
3. Prayerfully reflect on our staffing pattern
4. Cultivate our volunteer ministry
5. Blend digital and in person, on and off campus opportunities of programming and ministry.

Session and diaconate committees are to review these suggestions and report back how their committee will take ownership and implement those that apply to their committee at the October stated meeting.

D. HEALING PROCESS

Thoughts from the August 14 session retreat were briefly shared with a further discussion to be held at the October stated meeting.

### **ADJOURNMENT**

After leading the session in singing Happy Birthday to Parish Associate Lib McGregor Simmons, with no further business to conduct, the moderator adjourned the meeting. Ruling Elder A. Murrell offered the closing prayer. The meeting was adjourned at 8:42 p.m.