

2023 Annual Congregational Report



Multnomah Presbyterian Church

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In Our Fond Memories



Margie Enzor



2023 Annual Congregational Report

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Clerk of Session

Elders

Class of 2023 (Terms ending January 2024)	Class of 2024	Class of 2025	Class of 2026 (Terms beginning January 2024)
Roy Magnusson Julia Meyer Dennis Zerba	Michael Anderson Robyn Biehler Karen Black Heather Hellman Tom Jones	Jenifer Aberle Kate England Randy McCourt	Spencer Magnusson Clay Morgan Chris Ulum

Clerk of Session

Karen Black, Julia Meyer

Treasurer

Darlene Higgenbottom

Commissioners to Presbytery

Michael Anderson, Karen Black, Heather Hellman, Julia Meyer

Elders Leading Ministry Teams

Building & Grounds	Dennis Zerba, Karen Black
Christian Education/Youth	Kate England, Heather Hellman
Finance & Administration	Roy Magnusson, Dennis Zerba
Missions	Jenifer Aberle
Nominating	Karen Black, Kate England
Outreach/Fellowship	Robyn Biehler, Michael Anderson, Tom Jones
Personnel	Randy McCourt

Regular Session Meetings

January 23	March 23	May 25	July 25	September 26	November 28
February 23	April 27	June 19	August 29	October 24	December 19

Special Session Meetings

January 31, May 31, September 24

Congregational Meetings

January 29, June 11, November 5

(continued Clerk of Session Report)

Board of Deacons

Class of 2023	Class of 2024	Class of 2025	Class of 2026
(Terms ending January 2024)			(Terms beginning January 2024)
Poppy Bernasek Janet Kirkland Christi Sargent Dave Tomastik	Mary & Allen Pinero Sherri Kessler Lisa Bode	Janet Lowrey Jaonna Morgan Courtney Tomastik	Dick & Kate Eyberg Barb Jones Dave Tomastik

Attendance and Membership**Average Sunday Worship Attendance**

<u>2023</u>	<u>2022</u>	<u>2021*</u>	<u>2020*</u>	<u>2019</u>	<u>2018</u>	<u>2017</u>	<u>2016</u>	<u>2015</u>	<u>2014</u>
61	59	44	85	132	134	134	127	144	147

Average Weekly Streaming Views

<u>2023</u>	<u>2022</u>	<u>2021</u>	<u>2020</u>
47	67	69	76

Membership

Active Members, December 31, 2022 145

Losses:		Gains:	
By death	1	By affirmation of faith	3
Removed from membership	16		
Total Losses	17	Total Gain	3

Active Members, December 31, 2023 131

Removed by death: Margie Enzor

Removed from membership at their request: Karen Beers, Norm (Ray) Enzor, Steve Goodfellow, Lorraine Larson, Julia & Dave Meyer, Mary & Allen Pinero, Christi Sargent, Mark & Nancy Trullinger, Barbara Twitchell, Mark & Nancy Unrath, Dan & Sue Williams

Joined by affirmation of faith: Gary Cayton, Elijah Hellman, Jacqueline Ulum

*Due to pandemic, in-person gatherings were suspended from March 14, 2020, through the end of May 2021, with the exception of one outdoor service on Oct. 4, 2020 followed by congregational meeting to amend bylaws to allow for electronic congregational meetings. Attendance for 2020 is based on Jan/Feb attendance only, and for 2021 on in-person services beginning June, 2021.

Respectfully submitted,

Karen Black, 2023 Clerk of Session

Leadership Report

2023 showed us God's goodness in provision and grace in the midst of what could have seemed like desolation. As I think of this last year in our church it reminds me of Psalm 34; here are just a few verses:

I bless God every chance I get;
my lungs expand with his praise.

I live and breathe God;
if things aren't going well,
hear this and be happy:

Join me in spreading the news;
together let's get the word out.

God met me more than halfway,
he freed me from my anxious fears.

Look at him; give him your warmest smile.
Never hide your feelings from him.

When I was desperate, I called out,
and God got me out of a tight spot.

God's angel sets up a circle
of protection around us while we pray.

Open your mouth and taste, open your eyes
and see—how good God is.
Blessed are you who run to him.

We had a lot to be anxious about but we saw Jesus in our midst in big ways. We were without a pastor in one sense, but at the same time we had an abundance as we were surrounded by a great group of pastors who helped fill our pulpit and provided guidance and discernment. We lost members for a variety of reasons, and yet the members we retained stepped up to serve our community in huge ways. We opened our doors wider and, while we watched some walk out, soon opportunities arose to welcome our neighbors in. All around us we saw signs of life breaking through our own anxiety and sense of doom, or maybe that was just me.

It was a pleasure to serve with our Elders this year. The women and men who you elected to serve our church did a phenomenal job of really listening to God in word and spirit as they led us through this last year well. They navigated financial hardships, building and staffing challenges, and so much more, yet they did not shy away from the work or hard conversations. Our elders faithfully met with those who were concerned about our decision to correct a problem with our polity that prevented our church from being a welcoming congregation for all. We should not, according to our denomination's book of order, have been able to prevent anyone from being an elder or deacon in the church because they were LGBTQ+, yet we retained old policy language for ten years that did just that. Our elders worked to correct that mistake with research, prayer, care and compassion. After hearing that the majority of our congregation wanted to correct that policy error and move forward as a welcoming church, they made the formal decision to do so. In the face of harsh criticism from a small group, they continued to offer gratitude, grace, and welcome to those that disagreed. That one issue was just part of a lot of work our Elders did to help this church move forward in healthy ways. We are all very grateful to Roy Magnusson and Dennis Zerba who have just rotated off of session. They have worked for years to make sure that we are good stewards of our finances and property, and they have done an excellent job and have prepared us well for the future. Watching our leaders work, it was clear the Spirit is with them and at work through them, and it was so encouraging to watch.

This year Roy Magnusson and I participated in a program with Presbytery of the Cascades and Sacred Spaces, which helped us examine our building use and how we might open our property to the community more. Roy helped develop our building use policy to be able to welcome more groups to use our space. In the midst of that learning process, we had the opportunity to open our doors to the

Campfire organization, which provides after-school care at Portland Public Schools. During the teacher strike they were able to provide care in the Open Door for sixty working families. It was clear that God was here and at work as we saw the timing of all of this.

We also got out into the community for Sunday Parkways, where we worked with Portland Parks to provide walkers and riders with snacks, drinks, and music as they participated in the neighborhood event. It was a great day to meet our neighbors and serve them in the moment with exactly what they needed. We look forward to finding more opportunities to work with our neighbors out in the community. Currently, several of us are volunteering at Montclair Elementary school after being contacted by their principal, and we have made connections with the Multnomah Neighborhood Association so that we can keep up with and hopefully serve at some of their events as well.

Our deacon team stepped up to provide pastoral care to our church community, resources and financial support to the vulnerable in our surrounding community, an amazing Westside Dinner, and so much more. This team of hard working, compassionate, kind, caring people do so much to support and encourage all of us. They also set up lovely memorial services, sent birthday cards, and attempted to check in with every household. They did things like get power turned on for a single mother and her kids, and provided many much-needed vouchers for groceries, gas, and other needs. Janet Lowry and Dave Tomastik did an outstanding job at coordinating their wonderful team. We are thankful to Poppy Bernasek for her years of caring service as she rotates off as a deacon. We saw God's love and care through our deacons this year in so many wonderful ways.

I also want to shout out our staff. Holy cow we have an awesome staff that has stepped up in transition in HUGE ways. Vicki, Ray, and Amy serve our church with such talent, creativity, love and faithfulness. They are also immensely fun to work with. And we added Jennifer Ackerman for the new year!!! Truly a dream team. It's not hard to see Jesus' care for our church when we see the people he has placed here to work. We are so blessed by Vicki, Ray, Amy, and now Jennifer!

We are also thankful to the pastors that stepped in to help us, particularly, Ted Buck, Bob Stebe, Conley Zomermaand, and Jennifer Ackerman for their repeated help in filling the pulpit, consulting with us on transition tasks, and moderating our meetings. I am also thankful to our representative from Presbytery Johanna Dunn for all her wisdom and help in guiding our Pastor Nominating Committee. Those pastors surrounded us with so much support, we were never without a pastor, we had an abundance of great ones. Once again, God provided.

I completed an application, a psych evaluation, and a class on Polity and Administration in 2023 to prepare me to become a Commissioned Ruling Elder. As of January 12th I was officially accepted and approved for that program, I just have to complete a few small written assignments given by the Committee for Commissioned Ruling Elders and that process should be complete soon. I will then be able to serve the church and the denomination in a greater capacity. What a joy and a privilege to get to grow alongside the church and follow God's call together.

We have such an amazing team of leaders, I could go on for days, but you can just read their reports that follow. And of course it's all of you that serve on committees with them, stepping forward to volunteer for things, keeping our church running & looking beautiful, and continuing to be a shining light for Jesus that make our community so special. It is so fun to serve with all of you! I look forward to seeing what God will do in 2024 as we lean into his love and provision even more together, and work to make his kingdom more visible to the community around us.

Submitted by Heather Hellman, Director of Ministry & Head of Staff

Music & Worship 2023

2023 was a busy time for worship and music at MPC! Our marimba ensembles, choir, praise team, and ukulele group were active the entire year and filled the sanctuary with joyful music.

Our praise team continued to lead faithfully throughout the year (thank you to Jenifer Aberle and Roy Magnusson!) and we frequently enlisted Amy, David, and Lily McKean to help round out our praise team. We also received help from Niko Aberle, Karin Chesnutt, and Valentine Hellman.

MPC was also blessed with a very musical pulpit supply crew. Pastor Bob Stebe joined us on guitar for praise music; Conley Zomermaand and Jennifer Ackerman joined our choir for anthems as well!

Choir, ukuleles, and the youth had a night of fun in the spring—eating, playing games and having a sing-along. The ukuleles also led a carol sing in December, Christmas music at the Westside Dinner, and a sing-along at the picnic in September. Also, many thanks to Valentine Hellman for sharing his musical gifts (playing original songs and covers!) at the church picnic.



The ukuleles and Amy McKean shared their gifts at the Portland Parkways event - Amy leading a drumming circle and ukuleles leading (what else?) a sing-along that was sung all the way down the street.

We also were privileged to host musical events at our church throughout the year. We hosted a couple of piano recitals for local teachers, a viola recital by Shelley Mathewson, and a tribute concert honoring Dorothy Fahlman, a very decorated and beloved piano teacher in the Portland area for decades (and mother of our friend Karin Chesnutt!).

The year wrapped up with a solo piano concert by Ray McKean (The Holly and the Ivories!) and our Christmas Coffeehouse concerts (When Worlds Collide!), led by our wonderful drama troupe and all of our musical ensembles.

Many thanks to Amy McKean for leading our marimba ensembles and providing wonderful music all year. Thank you to Valentine Hellman for running the sound board and special shout out to Russel Haynes for stepping in and running sound for the Coffeehouse (so Val could play!!). Thank you to all of our volunteers in choir, marimbas, ukuleles, praise team and on the audiovisual team who continue to help us all worship with joy!

Ray McKean, Director of Music



Outreach / Fellowship

The Outreach/Fellowship team in 2023 welcomed our new Elder, Tom Jones to the team, along with Michael & Dayle Anderson and Dave Tomastik.

We served a variety of events and activities along with trying to recruit new people to our teams. A few of our accomplishments include:

- Helping with updating our MPC website.
- Broadening our Pickleball opportunities: In Jan of '23 we started with 7 people at our Open Door with 1 session every 2 weeks. By the time the year ended, we were offering 3 open sessions every week, plus private lessons. There are 25 people on the email list (facilitated by Roy and Spencer Magnusson) with more than 20 visitors throughout 2023.
- Dave and Tom updated our “Greeters & Ushers” sign up sheets along with “Coffee and Treats.”
- In September we put on our 1st “Tacos & Tunes” event that included original tunes from our very talented Valentine Hellman, and a sing-along led by our ukulele orchestra!
- We had 2 Food Cart events to gather people after church.
- We assisted with the Sunday Parkways event in September.
- We helped with our annual “Coffeehouse” by providing a variety of cookies, beverages and Christmas decorations; thank you Steve & Caroline Brandt, Dayle & Michael Anderson!
- Each month we recognized (in our Announcer) and thanked our many volunteer teams that add so much to MPC’s positive culture and climate.
- We participated in Pivot NW Research - empowering young adults (23-29) in churches & communities to facilitate strategic engagement and encourage leadership identification for young adults. We will continue this in 2024.
- Dave Tomastik was instrumental in increasing our publicity for events by purchasing & displaying a variety of banners on 45th Ave.
- Heather has increased our publicity by looking into updating our signage (reader board) on 45th Ave.



Thank you to everyone who helped with all the Outreach and Fellowship activities this past year. We look forward to 2024 to more opportunities to serve at MPC.

Respectfully submitted,

Elders - Tom Jones (Fellowship), Robyn Biehler (Outreach)
and committee members Michael & Dayle Anderson and Dave Tomastik.

Missions Committee

Thanks for your participation and generous support of the Mission Team! I am very fortunate to work with the folks on our Mission Committee, who are so motivated and effective in sharing the light of Jesus through our efforts.

HOMEpdx Lunches

We served a hot lunch with HOMEpdx again three times this year – April 4, July 2, and August 6. It was wonderful to be working together in the kitchen preparing these meals, and to be face-to-face with those in need in our community, serving a hot meal to them. Thank you to the volunteers, shoppers, and to everyone who supported these lunches. We were excited to have the youth group work with us this year.



Neighborhood House

In 2023 we were happy to meet our goal to raise \$2000 for SW Hope: Feed The Hungry, the fundraising campaign for the Neighborhood House food pantry in Multnomah Village. We collected \$883 in cash, checks and non-perishable donations, another \$700 was donated online, and the registration fees of \$425 for the 5K run/walk put us over our goal. We had a good group from MPC participating in the 5K, which was a fun morning of fellowship out among the community. Thank you to everyone who attended events, donated money, and brought in food and other items.

The Christmas Eve Offering supported Neighborhood house, and donations were made to the food pantry on behalf of visitors to our services.

Howard's Heart

As a result of your generous donations, we were able to deliver 30+ backpacks, 12 day-planners, and an assortment of school supplies for Howard's Heart. This organization supports teens in foster care, many of whom leave their homes with nothing, by providing a wide variety of needed items. We visited the Lloyd Center "store" where foster care teens can make their own selections.

In addition to the school supply drive we collected monetary donations to benefit Howard's Heart at Ray McKean's "The Holly and the Ivories" concert on 11/29.



Stephen's Creek Crossing Housing Community

We were able to give thanks for God's work in our lives by providing more than 37 gift cards to residents of Stephen's Creek Crossing, a low-income housing community in our neighborhood, for Thanksgiving meals.

New in 2023, we offered a Drumming Workshop taught by Amy McKean, our gifted Marimba Director, who did an amazing job making the experience fun and challenging for the group of varied ages and abilities.

Fran Barth continues to hold a weekly homework club at SCC for kids of all ages.

(continued **Missions Report**)

NW Children's Outreach

We were able to donate 62 new kids' winter coats to Northwest Children's Outreach in December. NCO is an ALL-volunteer, Christian-founded and -led group, desiring to love those in need with the love of Christ by providing material resources for children. We have been donating to NCO for a number of years, and we hear again and again how grateful they are for these coats, and how needed they are.

Cold Weather Kits

All through November we collected cold weather items. The Mission Committee purchased additional items to round them out, and on December 3rd, we assembled more than 50 kits, and wrote Christmas cards to go along with them. These were donated to HOMEpx to be distributed to our unsheltered neighbors during the Christmas season. In addition, we were able to donate numerous hats and scarves to Rose Haven, a day shelter and community center serving folks experiencing the trauma of abuse, loss of home and other disruptive life challenges.

Thank you so much for your generosity in helping assemble kits and bringing in items, many of which were handmade! It was a fun event and the beneficiaries are so grateful.

2023 Monetary Donations

Throughout the year, we made discretionary donations from our budget to Water is Life Kenya to support a well, Faithful Friends, Presbyterian Disaster Assistance for Turkey/Syria, to World Vision for Maui, the Middle East and Ukraine.

Additionally, as part of our budget, we supported the preaching work of Juveninto Martinez in Mexico via In His Name Ministries; Christian-run schools in Ethiopia via Light of Hope ministries, a part of Frontier Fellowship; the ambulance and clinic in the village of Chwele, Kenya; Loaves & Fishes/Meals on Wheels; Salvation Army Women's Shelter; the Christian-run Pamoja House hospitality center and English school for immigrants in the Portland area; and Operation Nightwatch, an organization that serves the unsheltered community; and the Presbytery of the Cascades Mission Fund.

Christmas Joy Offering

We also promoted individual donations to PCUSA's special December offering. This fund assists current and retired church workers in need, and also supports future leaders at Presbyterian-related schools and colleges equipping communities of color.



We're grateful the Lord has empowered these organizations to make a difference in these desperate situations and blessed us to be able to help.

Submitted by Jenifer Aberle, Chair of the Mission Committee

Congregational Nominating Committee

The 2023 Congregational Nominating Committee (CNC) began the year with Karen Black as the Chair, Robyn Biehler as the Session Representative, and Sherri Kessler as the Deacon representative. Linda Jager and Judi Davis were the congregation members at large. In June, Karen Black took on a new role, so Session voted Kate England to chair the CNC. The committee began meeting to gather nominations for church officers—specifically three elders and two deacons—for the class of 2026. The terms for church officers are three years with a second consecutive term allowing for a maximum of six years. The term for members of the Congregational Nominating Committee is one to three years.

The elders rotating off are Roy Magnusson and Dennis Zerba, as well as the vacancy left by Julie Meyer. Each served the maximum of six consecutive years, providing Multnomah Presbyterian Church with the gifts and talents they were each blessed with, leading our church to the best of their abilities. We thank them for their dedication, expertise, and leadership through both of their terms on Session.

The deacons rotating off are Poppy Bernasek and a vacancy. Dave Tomastik is completing a term and felt called to remain on the Deacon Board for another three year term. We thank Poppy for her six years of dedication and service as a deacon.



The Congregational Nominating Committee met throughout the Fall and discerned candidates for all leadership roles for the Class of 2026. The CNC asked church officer nominees to prayerfully consider serving our congregation as elders or deacons. We are pleased to have Spencer Magnusson, Clay Morgan, and Chris Ulum accept their nominations for serving as elders. Accepting nominations as deacons are Barb Jones and the team of Dick and Kate Eyberg.

Session met on October 24th and were advised on the nominees, who were then presented to the Congregation on November 5th. The Class of 2026 were installed on January 21, 2024. Additionally the Congregational Nominating Committee members-at-large for 2024 will continue to be Linda Jager and Judi Davis.

The Pastor Nominating Committee (PNC), co-chaired by John England and Dick Eyberg, met weekly to complete the Ministry Information Form (MIF). However, Johanna Dunn, our Commission on Ministry liaison, informed the PNC that Presbytery changed the form to a Ministry Discernment Profile (MDP). PNC needed to transfer the gathered data to the MDP and spend time completing additional portions of the new form. Session reviewed the draft, provided feedback, and the PNC made adjustments accordingly. Session then approved the form, but paused posting the MDP with Presbytery until we have a clear picture of the level of staffing we can responsibly maintain financially. The PNC is on pause until session determines Multnomah Presbyterian Church is financially stable to hire a full time pastor.

Submitted by Kate England, 2023 Congregational Nominating Committee Chair

Personnel

2023 started with an uncertain future and ended with a plan for 2024. Following the departure of our Pastor in 2022, a position statement was posted for a transitional pastor in January 2023 and, after review of candidates, interviews were conducted in March. After completing this process the top candidate withdrew, so a Plan B was instituted that provided pulpit supply for MPC through the end of 2023. We were fortunate to have the opportunity to hear several voices who provided month-long series of sermons. Thank you to Rev. Conley Zomermaand, Rev. Dr. Jennifer Ackerman, Rev. Dr. Bob Stebe, Rev. Kelly Dickson, Rev. Jeff Sievert, and Heather Hellman who helped us through the 2023 transition.

At the same time, the MPC Pastor Nominating Committee was working through their process of preparing a Ministry Discernment Profile to prepare us for a potential pastor search. In the Fall of 2023, after reviewing financial data and projections for 2024, the Personnel Committee developed a staffing plan involving a temporary transitional pastor configuration. The Committee reviewed the background materials for several candidates and selected Rev. Dr. Jennifer Ackerman to work with Heather Hellman to bridge MPC leadership in the transition to a new full-time Pastor. Covenant (contracts) for both were prepared for 2024.



We outlined a path for Commissioned Ruling Elder by working with Heather Hellman, our Commission on Ministry, and the Presbytery of the Cascades, which would allow Heather to perform some of the tasks of a Pastor for MPC (including moderating session, administering of the Sacrament, officiating marriages, and being a voice in meetings of the Presbytery). It is expected that the commissioning will be completed in 2024. At that time both Jennifer and Heather will work together to provide temporary transitional pastor support to MPC.

With the staffing plan approved by Session, along with the draft of the 2024 budget, it was decided to pause the Pastor Nominating Committee work until a better understanding of future finances could be established later in 2024.

Due to the transition of leadership in 2023, I met with staff members Heather Hellman, Vicki Smallwood, and Ray McKean to conduct personnel reviews. Other staff will be included in next year's review discussions.

Thank you to the members of the Personnel Committee—Jennifer Gassaway, Darlene Higgenbottom, Kelly Kendrick, and Melissa Ulum—for their support in 2023. Jennifer and Kelly will end their terms on the committee this year, and we greatly appreciate their contributions to MPC. Given this was my first year back on Session, I was fortunate to have their support and knowledge.

Next year the Personnel Committee will be updating the MPC Policy Handbook to bring it up to date with changes from the past four years and new policies from the Presbytery of the Cascades.

Serving in goodwill,

Randy McCourt, Personnel Chair

Christian Education

In 2023 we saw some of our favorite programs for discipleship and learning return. Adult Classes returned on Tuesday mornings, Sunday School for both adults and children was back with more regularity, and we split into middle school and high school youth groups once again.

We have dedicated volunteers who help keep all of these programs afloat. John and Kate England do an amazing job creating and providing our adult Sunday School classes. Kate also teaches children's Sunday School along with Karen Black and Margie Bender. John England and Spencer Magnusson remain faithful leaders of our youth programs as well, with Valentine Hellman stepping in to make Middle School youth group possible before we pivoted it to Wednesday nights. Sherri Kessler made Good News Tues (now on Mondays) possible, providing meals and warmly welcoming kids and their families to the Open Door. Without these amazing people we would have no children's or youth opportunities.

CE also worked with Pivot Northwest to bring the Young Adult Summit here in November. At that meeting we learned about and discussed ways to make our community more accessible and of greater service to young adults. As 2024 starts we are looking to continue the discussion and put to use the \$2000 we received in grant funding in ministering to young adults. We will be forming a committee soon of young adults to help us discern where God is leading in this area.



We had a great event for all generations with Outreach in the Easter Funday. Sherri Kessler, Dick Eyberg and their team prepared an amazing pancake breakfast while outside we had games and Easter Egg Hunt and Baby Goats. It was well attended by families in the community and truly a fun day for all.

Our annual VBS provided a great camp experience where students learned about Jesus love through a curriculum designed by our Alaska team with input from our Good News Tues students. We are thankful to the many wonderful volunteers (both youth and adults) who worked to make VBS possible.



(continued **Christian Education Report**)

We sent another team to Skagway, Alaska where we were warmly welcomed to provide a week of VBS for children and youth group for teens. We are rebuilding that program after the pandemic and seeing growth already. It was a great experience for our own youth as they helped plan the logistics and lead the programming in Skagway. We heard from students about their growth in faith, and in their awareness of their belatedness and belonging in Christ, so we consider the trip a great success.



Submitted by Heather Hellman

Deacons

Deacon: Book of Order

The ministry of deacon as set forth in Scripture is one of compassion, witness, and service, sharing in the redeeming love of Jesus Christ for the poor, the hungry, the sick, the lost, the friendless, the oppressed, those burdened by unjust policies or structures, or anyone in distress. We hope the congregation of Multnomah Presbyterian, and our neighbors, have felt the presence and care from your MPC deacons this year.

The Deacons continued with their mission this year:

- We kept in touch with families through phone calls, cards, emails, and visits at church. We are ready to supply and coordinate meals in times of need.
- Neighborhood House food collection – we continue to collect non-perishable, non-expired food and paper products in the Fellowship Hall for our local community.
- Westside Thanksgiving Dinner for our friends from Westside Community Focus. Though our guest numbers were down this year, due to another Covid outbreak, those who did attend were thankful and joyous. Multnomah's Ukulele Group brightened the evening with Christmas songs. We thank the volunteers and those who donate financially or through pies, without whom we could not continue this long-standing event.
- Deacon Assistance Fund
 - The program's purpose is to minister to individuals or families experiencing hardship or crisis by temporarily helping them with their basic needs. The Fund is intended as a source of last resort, to be used when the individual or household requesting assistance has explored all other possibilities of help from other sources
 - We provided \$5,008 in rent and utility assistance to seven families. We reinstated in-person interviews in 2023, which allows requesters a chance to tell their stories, and the deacons to share the love of Christ.
 - The fund also provides token assistance as immediate, tangible demonstrations of moral support.
 - We provided \$1,988 in gas vouchers from 12/7/22–12/31/23, working with Multnomah Chevron to improve our system to avoid misuse.
 - Each year, we supply approximately \$400 in Fred Meyer gift cards.
 - We thank those who contribute to the Deacon Fund to help provide these services.
- Bereavement Coordinator — we assisted with one service, for long-time member Nancy Donner.

Three deacons covering two districts resigned mid-year when they withdrew their membership from MPC. Elder Robyn Biehler graciously stepped in to care for some of our families for the remainder of the year. Sherri Kessler is unable to complete her last year as a deacon (2024). Poppy Bernasek completed her second 3-year term in 2023. We thank all outgoing deacons for their compassion, time, prayers, and thoughtful care over our congregation.

The Deacons Class of 2026: Dave Tomastik (renewing), Barb Jones, and Kate & Dick Eyberg (working in tandem to share one district). All have prior deacon experience, giving us a good start to a new year.

In His service, Janet Lowrey & Dave Tomastik, Deacon Co-Moderators

Dove Christian Preschool



Dove (in the hands of Teacher Barb & Teacher Katrina) successfully completed another full school year, with bits and pieces of Covid still lingering. The health & safety protocols put into place the year before continued into this year, minus the use of masks (unless needed, based on the health protocols). Parents were vigilant about keeping sick kids at home, and everyone worked together to make sure the year was healthy. The Pre II class had a modified Spring Luncheon which included pizza and salad with their families. Dads and Moms were invited to share donuts and games with their kids. Both classes were able to enjoy a field trip to the Oregon Zoo. And at the end of May, 15 students graduated from Dove.

During the summer, Dove families who enrolled for Fall 2023 met at various parks so the children could play outside and the parents could get to know one another.

The 2023-24 school year began in September on our regular schedule, with 11 kids enrolled in Pre I and 10 enrolled in Pre II. It has been a year filled with activities and learning. Both classes went to the Jones Estate for the Fall Field Trip. Pumpkin decorating, games, snacks, visiting goats, and a photo booth were available, as well as a pumpkin patch where the kids could get a pumpkin for home. With the help of office staff and other MPC members, the kids enjoyed a Halloween celebration, wearing costumes and trick-or-treating. Despite a smaller class size, the Christmas program was carried out with incredible enthusiasm. It truly was the highlight of the year once again.



After many faithful years serving as the Dove board president, Kate Eyberg stepped down. Jessica Kindrick took her place and has been keeping things moving forward. We said so long to Christy Ward (parent board member), and replaced her with Ashley Scotton (she has twins at Dove). Tim Colenso continues to serve as Treasurer through March, with Dave Tomastik taking over in April. And we added Melissa and Jacquelyn Ulum, and Laura Bernards. And as always, Dennis Zerba and Dick Eyberg continue to provide help as requested (fire drills, maintenance needs, and other requests). We are very grateful for everyone who serves this amazing preschool.

Thank you to the church for its continued support of Dove, and to all the people who pray for the school. The families are truly appreciative of the love and care their children receive. We strive to introduce the children to their world and to all that God has created. We are very blessed and fortunate to have such a special program. Please pray that God will continue to bless Dove by bringing students to the school, and give us the opportunity to share His love. Visit our website, www.dovepreschool.com or email us at dovechristianpreschool@gmail.com.

If you are interested in being a member of Dove's board, please let us know. We would love to have you be part of an outstanding program.

Submitted by Barb Jones, Director

Buildings & Grounds Committee

The primary objectives of the Buildings & Grounds Committee are:

- To provide a comprehensive plan for dealing with maintenance issues facing MPC.
- Communicate information to Session and the congregation about the needs and priorities for accomplishing church maintenance and improvement projects.
- Identify volunteer and contractor resources to work on the various tasks and projects.
- Continually evaluate maintenance needs and adjust the priorities as necessary.

2023 Accomplishments

Once again this has been a challenging year for everyone, including those tasked with maintaining the church facilities and grounds. Thanks to continuing contributions from the Congregation to the Building Fund and budgeted maintenance funds, we were able to accomplish several projects in 2023. The following are some of those items:

- After putting the roof and remaining sides back on the tent (having removed them due to wind damage in January), an unexpected wet, heavy snowfall in late February resulted in the collapse of the tent, damaging the metal structure and vinyl siding. The decision was made to remove the tent and not replace it.



- Due to continued poor performance with the contract janitorial work being done in the church, we terminated the contract we had with City Wide Services and signed a new contract agreement with Coverall Services. The new contractor has proven to be very good and reliable.
- Mike Barth led a project to repair damaged siding on the Open Door. Several areas near the bottom of the side and rear walls had rotted and required removal, replacement, and painting.
- A contractor was brought in to repair a roof leak that had developed in Fireside Room.
- Thanks to Gary Cayton and Glass Magnum, we were able to replace three windows in the Open Door and one of the windows high up at the back of the sanctuary (pictured right). These windows had to be replaced due to rock damage or broken seals and fogging.



(continued Buildings & Grounds)

- One of the major projects for the year was putting a new floor surface in the Open Door gym and addressing other safety issues with the new activities in the gym (Pickleball). This has turned out to be a very worthwhile project with increased use of the facility. The people playing pickleball have also stepped up and accepted janitorial responsibilities for the whole Open Door.



- The downstairs classroom 113 got a much needed major facelift this year with cleaning out unused items stored in the room, fresh paint on the walls, new wall hangings, and a video monitor to provide for a better learning experience.
- The Fire Alarm Panel in the church had to be replaced due to failing components and the unavailability of replacement parts. This project cost in excess of \$23,000 to complete.
- We had to cut down some dead cedar trees this past year near the Open Door and parking lot. Previous years' extreme heat damage and a general die-off of cedar trees in the area prompted this action. Some of the trees were small enough that we could deal with them with volunteer help, however we had to get a permit and contractor to get several of the larger dangerous trees removed. The die-off continues with several other trees on our property and will have to be addressed in 2024.

**Volunteers**

Thanks to all those individuals who have helped with routine and special maintenance projects around the church this past year. Without your help, many maintenance needs would go unaddressed.

Respectfully submitted by the Buildings & Grounds Committee:

Amy Clements, Karen Black, John Prutsman, Dick Eyberg, Clay Morgan, Gary Cayton,
and Dennis Zerba (Chair)

Finance & Administration Ministry Team Report

Review of 2023 Financial Performance

This past year has seen substantial change in our approach to serving Christ in our community. We began the hard work of becoming more open and welcoming to all who seek to know and understand Christ. As with many churches across the U.S., our membership numbers have gradually dwindled and as a result our revenue has also decreased. Much of this year was spent discussing how to reposition our church to be successful in this new day and age. We reorganized our staffing model to meet our budget and ongoing needs. We were able to retain a team of very energetic leaders and add Dr. Jennifer Ackerman in 2024 to enhance our capacity to worship and serve. This new model has been built into the budget for the coming year .

Actual 2023 Income/Expenses

During the year we brought in \$294,890 in contributions. Our expenses were tightly managed and, as a result, we came in below budget. We end the year with a small surplus of \$7,995. We once again end the year in a strong financial position with \$263,470 on the balance sheet and the general fund at the target level.

Year End Transfers

A few specific funds were rolled forward to next year. In particular, the education allowance for staff is continued forward as they were time constrained this year. We will roll the balance of this year's budget forward to the General Fund. We again reviewed designated funds that were not active and consolidated a few of these into similar funds or the general fund if no similar fund existed.

Pledge Report

As of January 16, 2024 we have 46 pledges for the coming year totaling \$228,940. This represents approximately 70% of the proposed 2024 budget. Many thanks for the generous support you provide.

2024 Budget Recommendation

The budget that we prepared for 2024 is very similar to the 2023 budget with a few key improvements. We reduced overhead in a number of administrative (office) expenses. The most significant change was in the staffing model as the recruitment of a full time pastor was set aside temporarily and a part-time pastor was hired. A summary of the proposed budget is included below. The detailed budget is available in the office for review.

A New Day Rising

It has been wonderful to renew our worship and fellowship together at MPC this year. Even so the world is changing and we must now find new ways to serve Christ in our community. We do this by defining our role, recruiting the appropriate leaders, and finding new opportunities to resource the work of the Lord.

It is with great gratitude and infinite hope for the future of the church that the members of the F&A Committee thank the congregation for allowing us to serve Jesus as your financial team.

Darlene Higgenbottom (Treasurer), Dennis Zerba, Gayle Clopton, Tom Base, Chris Ulum,
and Roy Magnusson (Chair)

Multnomah Presbyterian Church

2024 Annual Budget Summary

								Change 2023 Budget to 2024 Budget %	Change 2023 Budget to 2024 Budget \$	
Budget Entry		2021		2022		2023		2024		
		Budget	Actual	Budget	Actual	Budget	Actual	Budget Requested		
PASTORAL										
1000	Pastoral Expenses	113,058	107,388	113,866	84,648	125,116	13,300	94,000	-24.9%	(31,116)
		113,058	107,388	113,866	84,648	125,116	13,300	94,000	-24.9%	(31,116)
PERSONNEL										
1210	Youth Director	56,545	55,268	57,901	59,021	62,516	68,086	0	-100.0%	(62,516)
1220	Music Director	28,337	27,637	29,020	29,362	31,346	33,530	31,346	0.0%	0
1240	Office Manager	35,368	30,795	35,685	27,844	35,978	31,127	37,381	3.9%	1,403
1250	Other Staff	11,423	6,023	9,100	4,767	7,775	5,339	8,600	10.6%	825
1290	Taxes	12,775	12,777	14,810	10,655	14,000	12,043	13,500	-3.6%	(500)
		144,448	132,499	146,516	131,648	151,615	150,125	90,827	-40.1%	(60,788)
MISSIONS										
1330	Missions	44,132	43,561	37,300	34,899	36,050	34,260	29,400	-18.4%	(6,650)
		44,132	43,561	37,300	34,899	36,050	34,260	29,400	-18.4%	(6,650)
CHURCH BUILDINGS & PROPERTY										
1410	Church Building	59,270	47,448	60,570	51,138	61,420	53,162	61,092	-0.5%	(328)
1421	Open Door	2,750	1,569	2,855	1,846	3,060	3,424	3,020	-1.3%	(40)
1431	Grounds	5,000	1,919	2,600	1,554	2,600	2,357	2,000	-23.1%	(600)
		67,020	50,935	66,025	54,539	67,080	58,943	66,112	-1.4%	(968)
OFFICE EXPENSES										
1510	Office	9,993	7,819	8,800	6,208	8,700	9,993	8,968	3.1%	268
1530	General Administration	14,000	12,755	13,408	15,015	14,900	13,849	14,380	-3.5%	(520)
1540	Computers	10,000	752	5,000	2,043	0	0	0	0.0%	0
		33,993	21,326	27,208	23,266	23,600	23,842	23,348	-1.1%	(252)
IN-BUDGET MINISTRIES										
1610	CE General	1,200	899	900	623	1,300	425	1,300	0.0%	0
1620	Youth Programs	2,250	1,137	2,050	1,436	2,050	1,417	2,050	0.0%	0
1630	CE Curriculum	1,700	998	1,810	1,265	1,300	268	1,300	0.0%	0
1640	CE Programs	2,500	587	2,300	1,446	2,400	1,102	2,100	-12.5%	(300)
1650	Outreach	700	203	1,000	952	1,300	768	1,300	0.0%	0
1660	Fellowship	2,114	1,074	1,600	1,322	2,466	721	2,325	-5.7%	(141)
1670	Worship/Music	3,700	1,735	3,700	3,084	3,700	2,806	3,400	-8.1%	(300)
		14,164	6,633	13,360	10,127	14,516	7,507	13,775	-5.1%	(741)
ORGANIZATIONS										
1711	Session/Planning	500	224	700	0	700	119	400	-42.9%	(300)
1721	PC(USA) Per Capita	6,570	6,570	6,669	6,669	6,795	6,794	6,075	-10.6%	(720)
1731	The Fellowship	250	250	250	0	0	0	0	0.0%	0
		7,320	7,044	7,619	6,669	7,495	6,913	6,475	-13.6%	(1,020)
TOTALS										
1000	PASTORAL	113,058	107,388	113,866	84,648	125,116	13,300	94,000	-24.9%	(31,116)
1200	PERSONNEL	144,448	132,499	146,516	131,648	151,615	150,125	90,827	-40.1%	(60,788)
1300	MISSIONS	44,132	43,561	37,300	34,899	36,050	34,260	29,400	-18.4%	(6,650)
1400	CHURCH BUILDINGS	67,020	50,935	66,025	54,539	67,080	58,943	66,112	-1.4%	(968)
1500	OFFICE EXPENSES	33,993	21,326	27,208	23,266	23,600	23,842	23,348	-1.1%	(252)
1600	IN-BUDGET MINISTRIES	14,164	6,633	13,360	10,127	14,516	7,507	13,775	-5.1%	(741)
1700	ORGANIZATIONS	7,320	7,044	7,619	6,669	7,495	6,913	6,475	-13.6%	(1,020)
TOTAL		424,135	369,386	411,894	345,796	425,472	294,889	323,937	-23.9%	(\$101,535)

