

# 2024 Annual Congregational Report



## **Multnomah Presbyterian Church**

**7555 SW 45th Ave.**

**Portland, OR 97219**

**503 246-5459**

**[www.MultPresChurch.org](http://www.MultPresChurch.org)**



**In Our Fond Memories**



Maxine Shuler



## **2024 Annual Congregational Report**

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## Clerk of Session Elders

Class of 2024 (Terms ending January 2025)	Class of 2025	Class of 2026	Class of 2027 (Terms beginning January 2025)
<del>Michael Anderson</del> Robyn Biehler Karen Black Heather Hellman Tom Jones	Jenifer Aberle Kate England Randy McCourt	Spencer Magnusson Clay Morgan Chris Ulum	Kevin Marshall Lisa Shelley

### Clerk of Session

Karen Black

### Staff

Amy McKean,  
Director of Marimba Ministry

Ray McKean,  
Director of Music

Vicki Smallwood,  
Office Manager

Rev. Dr. Jennifer Ackerman, PhD  
Transitional Pastor

Heather Hellman,  
Temporary Pastor, CRE, Head of Staff

### Treasurer

Darlene Higgenbottom

### Commissioners to Presbytery

Karen Black, Heather Hellman

### Elders Leading Ministry Teams

Building & Grounds	Clay Morgan, Karen Black
Christian Education/Youth	Spencer Magnusson, Heather Hellman
Fellowship	Tom Jones
Finance & Administration	Chris Ulum
Missions	Jenifer Aberle
Nominating	Kate England, Jenifer Aberle
Outreach	Robyn Biehler
Personnel	Randy McCourt
Worship	Kate England

### Regular Session Meetings

January 23	March 18	May 28	August 27	October 22	December 17
February 27	April 23	July 23	September 24	November 19	

### Congregational Meetings

January 28, April 28, November 3

(continued Clerk of Session Report)

**Board of Deacons**

Class of 2024 (Terms ending January 2025)	Class of 2025	Class of 2026	Class of 2027 (Terms beginning January 2025)
Pat Johnson <del>Mary &amp; Allen Pinero</del> <del>Sherri Kessler</del> <del>Lisa Bode</del>	Janet Lowrey Jaonna Morgan Courtney Tomastik	Dick & Kate Eyberg Barb Jones Dave Tomastik	Pat Johnson

**Attendance and Membership**

**Average Sunday Worship Attendance**

<u>2024</u>	<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>
58	61	59	44	85	132	134	134	127	144

**Average Weekly Streaming Views**

<u>2024</u>	<u>2023</u>	<u>2022</u>	<u>2021</u>	<u>2020</u>
36	47	67	69	76

**Membership**

Active Members, December 31, 2023 131

<b>Losses:</b>		<b>Gains:</b>	
By death	1	By Certificate of Transfer	1
Removed from membership	3		
Transfer	1		
<b>Total Losses</b>	<b>5</b>	<b>Total Gain</b>	<b>1</b>

Active Members, December 31, 2024 127

Removed by death: Maxine Shuler

Removed from membership at their request: Tim & Poppy Bernasek, John Graf

Removed by Transfer: Pat Bell

Joined by Certificate of Transfer: Kevin Marshall

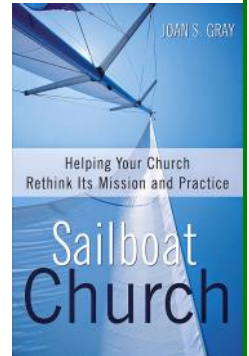
\*Due to pandemic, in-person gatherings were suspended from March 14, 2020, through the end of May 2021, with the exception of one outdoor service on Oct. 4, 2020 followed by congregational meeting to amend bylaws to allow for electronic congregational meetings. Attendance for 2020 is based on Jan/Feb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

Respectfully submitted,

Karen Black, 2024 Clerk of Session

## Leadership Report

This year at Multnomah Presbyterian Church we followed Jesus into lots of interesting adventures. Our elders read the book *Sailboat Church* this fall by Joan S. Grey. Grey's theory is that you can either be a rowboat church or a sailboat church. A rowboat church depends on human effort and frantically rows harder when things are uncertain. Sailboat churches instead rely on the Holy Spirit to guide them as they hoist the sails to allow that movement of the Spirit to power them. In doing that study we realized we were doing just that, saying yes to opportunities as God presented them instead of just manufacturing things we hoped would work, and wow, did God present some amazing opportunities.



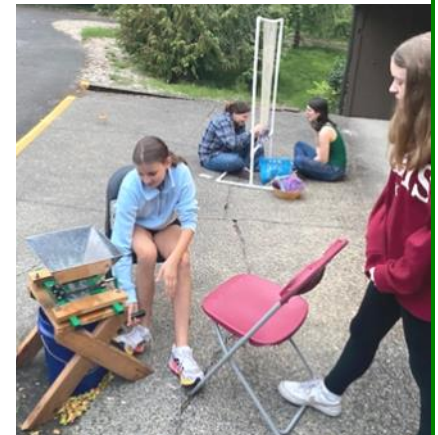
Following the guidance of the Holy Spirit, 2024 was a year when we truly opened our doors to our community and became a resource. As opportunities arose to rent our building to community non-profits, we did. As people asked to use our parking lot to hold recycling events and trash disposal events, we did, and in the process we made powerful connections with our neighbors. We joined the



Neighborhood Business Association to continue to get to know our neighbors and help in the community. We now have a place on the events committee, and that led to MPC being a big part of the Multnomah Village Holiday Gala, as we hosted a Whoville where people of all ages could meet the Grinch, played by Judah Haynes. Community members have said that we are now seen as a resource, we warm their hearts as they think of the efforts we went to to bring joy to our neighbors, and to help with taking care of the earth in our parking lot events — and they realize we did it all without asking anything in return. We also were asked by Portland Parks and Recreation to return and provide safety, help, and other resources and fun for Sunday Parkways. We have even seen some of those community members we met at these events join us for worship and our holiday concerts, which is just the cherry on top of a very sweet relationship with our neighbors.

Our church followed the Spirit's call as we partnered with organizations in the community who know best how to serve the vulnerable, and helped them provide service to our neighbors. We volunteered with and sent donations to HOMEpx for our homeless neighbors. We worked with Howard's Heart to serve teens in foster care. We worked with Faithful Friends to host a car show in the parking lot to help them get more mentors in their mentorship program for children. And we continued to support local and global mission partners in their efforts to help the most vulnerable.

We also continued to listen to the needs of our own MPC Family, providing care, opportunities to grow, learn, have fun, and serve. We didn't just add new programs, we looked at where people were already being nourished, and strengthened those things. MPC continued to provide youth group opportunities for teens, many of whom are not part of families who are members of our church. We had wonderful times of worship with our amazing music programs that many people from outside our church family came and enjoyed too. All the while, many volunteers worked hard to maintain our beautiful property so it could continue to be a great resource for us all.



**(continued Leadership Report)**

In addition to our amazing deacons and elders, we have an incredible staff team that helped all of these things to go well. Vicki Smallwood continues to shine in the office, assisting everyone with the day-to-day operations of our church with great skill and cheer. Ray and Amy McKean led our music ministries to make joyful noise, while Ray coordinated fantastic programs and times of worship. Jennifer Ackerman brought her amazing preaching talent, musical gifts, and creativity to making worship an epic experience. While not an employee of the church, Darlene Higgenbottom, our treasurer, kept us all on track financially and monitored our spending with faith and hope, as she has been doing for over a decade.

Truly it was a great year at MPC. While at times all of this work was exhausting for all of us, hopefully you found joy as I did in watching us become such a bright light of hope and Jesus' love to each other and our community was life giving.

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

## Personnel

This past year was our first using the new personnel model for leadership. Heather Hellman became a Commissioned Ruling Elder and we celebrated Heather's accomplishment on April 14. Together with Rev. Dr. Jennifer Ackerman, PhD, they have teamed together to provide pastoral leadership for MPC in 2024. Jennifer provides a few sermons per month and helps Heather with pastoral services. This model is being continued into 2025, as we have paused our Pastoral search efforts to allow MPC to assess our new future. This will be revisited in the coming year.



Our staff also includes several amazing people: Ray and Amy McKean who organize and deliver incredible music to the congregation; Vicki Smallwood who provides the friendly "front door" to MPC as our office manager; and, while a volunteer, Darlene Higgenbottom, our Treasurer, whose expertise, guidance, and oversight are invaluable to the congregation, and we cannot thank her enough.

As Chair of Personnel, I have been involved in a few other tasks with other ministries, such as developing an access & security plan and policy for MPC, reviewing MPC policies (a task for 2025), and assisting with the discussion related to a trail easement across MPC property with SW Trails and the City of Portland. There are exciting things ahead for MPC.

We are in the process of reorganizing the Personnel Committee and welcome those interested to reach out to Vicki, Heather, Jennifer, or myself to learn more. Come and see!

Take care and be safe,

Randy McCourt, Personnel Chair

## Worship & Music Report 2024

*Shout for joy to the Lord, all the earth. Worship the Lord with gladness; come before him with joyful songs.  
Psalm 100:1-2*

Worship is central to our church life at Multnomah Presbyterian Church. In 2024 we continued with one service, live streaming and posting recordings to our YouTube channel. Worship was led this year by Pastors Jennifer Ackerman and Heather Hellman. Their preaching and creativity made for meaningful worship experiences. They combined following the Liturgical calendar with themed series such as *Hearing from the Prophets*, the *Wandering Heart* Lenten liturgy from Sanctified Arts, *Worshipping with the Five Senses*, *Examining the Life of David*, *Gather Around*, which included a campfire sing-along in the round and an ongoing art project, and the Advent series *Words for the Beginning*, which was also from Sanctified Arts.

A significant piece of worship is our music ministries: praise team, choir, Jubilation! Marimba Ensemble, and ukuleles. We are blessed with an amazing Music Director, Ray McKean, who keeps the sanctuary filled with fabulous music all year long. Amy McKean is our wonderful Director of Marimba Ensembles which includes both adult and youth musicians contributing exciting music during key services. Our faithful praise team of Ray and Amy, along with Jenifer Aberle, Valentine Hellman, and Roy Magnusson, lead us in songs that glorify God and center us in our worship. Jennifer Ackerman, along with David and Lily McKean join in sharing their amazing talents as well.

Our Audio/Visual Team is key to the worship experience. Their gifts and talents allow us to make our in-person and virtual worship experience seen and heard. Our team of Rick Aberle, Russel Haynes, Elijah Hellman, Tom Jones, and Dave Tomastik make sure our services can be experienced by all. We are also grateful for the many volunteers who usher, serve communion, and take care of our tithes and offerings.

Thank you to all of our volunteers in choir, marimbas, ukuleles, praise team, audiovisual team, and other volunteers who continue to help us all worship with joy!

### **Music Ministry in Action**

Our Music Ministry was active for special events throughout the year as well.

In August the Ukulele Group shared their gifts for Tacos and Tunes, a church-wide event filled with food, music and fellowship. Valentine, Ray and David also played a set that included some of Val's original music and some covers.

In September the Ukulele Group played for Portland Parkways, which is a City of Portland event that was held in our neighborhood, for the second year in a row. The Ukulele Group also played for the Westside Thanksgiving Dinner.

In December, Valentine organized a quartet of horn players, including Spencer Magnusson and Janet Lowery, for the Whoville area at the Multnomah Village's tree lighting evening. Ray McKean treated us to his annual solo piano concert, "The Holly and the Ivories." And who could forget the Coffee House Concert! This year Spencer and Heather Hellman wrote and starred in "The Church Show Podcast." This "podcast" had many opportunities for our music ensembles, soloists, and drama team to shine, which brought joy to all.

Submitted by Kate England, Worship Chair & Ray McKean, Director of Music



## Outreach / Fellowship

The Outreach/Fellowship team in 2024 was led by Elders Robyn Biehler (Outreach) and Tom Jones (Fellowship), along with Michael & Dayle Anderson. Much support was also provided by Heather Hellman and Ray McKean to help keep a focus on the activities of the church and ways in which the teams could work with each other to provide a seamless and welcoming environment for all.

Outreach and Fellowship together supported a variety of events and activities and engaged with many people both at MPC and in our community. Here are some things we were involved with:

- There were many events that the Outreach and Fellowship Team supported, including: Spring Fun Day (March) with a pancake breakfast and baby goats, Decorating the Cross (March), Refreshments for the annual combined Session/Deacon meeting (February), Trunks of Treats (October), Hanging of the Greens (November), and Food Cart events periodically after church.
- Dayle organized a fabulous James Recycling event (July) with hundreds of people from our community attending. Thank you to the many volunteers who helped put on this event.
- Helping with our Security Team to develop procedures and processes around securing our campus while also balancing a welcoming environment for all. This included some things such as a door policy, greeting, keeping an eye on things, and knowing how to report security issues or concerns.
- Support of our Pickleball community by helping to host events and provide food and refreshments as needed.
- Updating our procedures for “Greeters & Ushers” and management of the sign up sheets, along with “Coffee and Treats.”
- In September we helped put on the “Tacos & Tunes” event again that included original tunes from our very talented Valentine Hellman, and a sing-along led by our ukulele orchestra!
- We assisted with the Sunday Parkways event (September) where we again took over a key intersection along the parkways route and got to engage with thousands from our community. Thank you to all the volunteers who helped with this big event.
- We helped with our annual “Coffeehouse” by providing a variety of cupcakes from Sarah Bellum’s, beverages, and Christmas decorations; thank you to all the volunteers who helped with this event.

**Thank you** to everyone who helped with all the Outreach and Fellowship activities this past year. We can’t put on events such as these and provide a welcoming environment without the support from our MPC Community. We look forward to 2025 and more opportunities to serve at MPC. We also look forward to welcoming Kevin Marshall to our team as the incoming Elder overseeing Outreach and Fellowship.

Respectfully submitted,

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

## Missions Committee

The Mission Team is so grateful for your support in our work! Here are some highlights:

### HOMEpdx Lunches

We served a hot lunch with HOMEpdx four times this year. 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. We also collected over \$400 in donations at Ray's Advent Concert.



### Neighborhood House

In the spring, we were able to raise \$2,045 and 38 lbs. of food for SW Hope: Feed The Hungry, the fundraising campaign for the Neighborhood House food pantry in Multnomah Village. We had 10 folks 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.

In addition to the spring campaign, we also collected food donations to celebrate Father's Day, and donations were made to the food pantry on behalf of visitors to our services.

### Refugee Care Collective

We collected 67 sets of Washcloths for new residents in the area.

### Howard's Heart

As a result of your generous donations, we were able to deliver shampoos, conditioners, toothbrushes and toothpaste for Howard's Heart. We also supported their holiday drive through gifts and monetary donations of \$2000, as well as helping with gift wrapping. This organization supports teens in foster care, many of whom leave their homes with nothing, by providing a wide variety of needed items and allowing teens some autonomy in choosing what's best for themselves.

### Safe Families For Children

We collected \$625 at our Christmas Eve service for Safe Families for Children, an organization that helps keep families together through times of crisis.

### Sarah Bellum's Bakery

Monetary donations of \$633 were collected at the Friday Christmas Coffeehouse to support this Multnomah Village non-profit bakery, which provides opportunities to people who have sustained traumatic brain injury.

### Stephen's Creek Crossing Housing Community

Fran Barth continues to hold a weekly homework club for kids of all ages at Stephen's Creek Crossing, a low-income housing community in our neighborhood. In the spring we purchased 12 new Chromebooks for the club. And in November we provided \$1000 in gift cards to residents of SCC.

(continued **Missions Report**)

### **NW Children's Outreach**

We were able to donate 75 new kids' winter coats to NCO 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 in need. 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**

In the fall we collected cold weather items, and the Committee purchased additional items to round them out, which we assembled into over 50 kits. These were donated to HOMEpx to be distributed to our unsheltered neighbors during November. The folks at HomePDX said our kits were the “best they’d ever seen.” 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.

### **2024 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 Israel/Palestine, and to World Vision for US hurricane relief.

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; Loves & Fishes/Meals on Wheels; Salvation Army; the Christian-run Pamoja House hospitality center and English school for immigrants in the Portland area; Operation Nightwatch, an organization that serves the unsheltered community; and the Presbytery of the Cascades Mission Fund.

### **PC(USA) Special Offerings**

We also promoted individual donations to PC(USA)'s quarterly special offerings, which supported multiple projects, including efforts to:

- relieve hunger through the Presbyterian Hunger Program
- promote development through the Presbyterian Committee on the Self-Development of People
- work with at-risk children, youth, and young adults in our community
- provide critical financial assistance to current and retired church workers and their families in their time of need through the Assistance Program of the Board of Pensions

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 2024 Congregational Nominating Committee (CNC) was chaired by Kate England, while Jenifer Aberle was the Session representative, and Kate Eyberg represented the Deacons. Our at-large members were Judi Davis and Linda Jager. The committee was tasked with discerning replacements for three elder positions and one deacon position.

The elders rotating off are Robyn Beihler, Karen Black, and Tom Jones. Each served Multnomah Presbyterian Church with the gifts and talents they were each blessed with, leading our church to the best of their abilities, and we thank them for their dedication, expertise, and leadership through their terms on Session. The deacon term that is ending is the position Pat Johnson stepped into this past year after Sherri Kessler resigned. Pat has agreed to continue with a new three year term, so the Congregational Nominating Committee did not need to discern additional deacons this year.

The Congregational Nominating Committee met beginning in August to discern candidates for all leadership roles for the Class of 2027. At this time, Session was reading a book titled *Sailboat Church: Helping Your Church Rethink Its Mission and Practice* by Joan Gray. The premise of the book is comparing a sailboat to a row boat. In this analogy, the sailboat is powered by the Holy Spirit, whereas the row boat is based on our actions. The CNC applied many of the book's principles, mainly prayer and allowing for time to listen for the Holy Spirit before making a decision. The CNC asked nominees to prayerfully consider serving our congregation as elders or deacons. We are pleased to have Kevin Marshall and Lisa Shelley accept their nominations for serving as elders.

CNC shared the candidates names in December and January, then the slate was presented to the Congregation as the "Class of 2027," to be installed on January 26, 2025.

The Congregational Nominating Committee at-large members for 2025 will be Darlene Higgenbottom and Kathy Wheeler. Session representatives will be Kate England and Jenifer Aberle. The Deacons representative will be Kate Eyberg.

Submitted by Kate England, 2024 Congregational Nominating Committee Chair

## Christian Education

### Youth and Kids

This year Multnomah Presbyterian continued to support youth and kids in our community with a safe space, fun programming, and opportunities to grow in their faith. In addition to regular youth groups for middle- and high-schoolers, we had special events like the holiday celebration, though this year we did not make it an overnight event.

While we don't have weekly activities for elementary-aged children, we do have monthly Sunday School (on the 1st Sunday of every month) which Kate England often teaches, and Good News Tues, our monthly youth group, which Sherri Kessler helps to lead. We have flexibility and plenty of materials to add more days of Sunday School, and will if the need arises. For now, we count our blessings that we have any kids around, as many churches in our denomination are not so fortunate.

We also worked hard to fundraise and plan for another Alaska Mission Trip. Our group of teens and adults raised over \$10,000 at the auction to provide for the travel and expenses of the trip to Skagway. Students helped plan the logistics of the trip, as well as events for Skagway youth group each night, and once again we created a curriculum for Vacation Bible School that was used both in Portland and Skagway. The community of Skagway and Skagway First Presbyterian were grateful for our time with them this summer. We heard from many parents that this is something their kids look forward to all year.



We held VBS in Portland as well as Skagway. We enjoyed a smaller number of students this year as it allowed us to have better teaching opportunities and conversations. Our VBS attendance is primarily made up of kids from outside of our MPC membership, so it continues to be an outreach to families. In addition to the amazing adult volunteers, we also had youth helpers from the community, and our Alaska Mission team.

Submitted by Heather Hellman



## Deacons

*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 Church, and our neighbors, have felt the presence and care from your MPC deacons 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, with Multnomah's Ukulele Group playing 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



- ◊ We provided \$2,594 in rent assistance to four families. We held several interviews in which candidates could receive assistance pending certain circumstances that did not come to fruition. These interviews offered a chance to share information on state services and tenant laws.
- ◊ We provided \$958 in gas vouchers to Multnomah Chevron. Our new procedure with Chevron has worked to stop abuse of the program.
- ◊ We supplied \$175 in Fred Meyer gift cards.
- ◊ We thank those who contribute to the Deacon Fund to help provide these services.
- Bereavement Coordinators – We assisted with the services of beloved member Maxine Shuler and two more friends of MPC in 2024.

The slate of deacons for 2025 remains unchanged, so the first time in several years, districts will not change.

In His service,

Janet Lowrey & Dave Tomastik  
Deacon Co-Moderators

## Dove Christian Preschool



Dove Christian Preschool successfully completed another full school year, led by Barb Jones & Katrina O'Hearn. MPC is blessed to have such experienced and dedicated teachers. Both the Pre I (3-year-olds) and Pre II (4-year-olds) classes were able to experience many of the activities that were placed on hold the previous year, including a visit from the fire station for Pre I, and a field trip to the fire station for Pre II. The Pre II class held a Spring Luncheon which included pizza and salad with their families. Both classes were able to enjoy a field trip to the Oregon Zoo. On the last day of school, both classes had Pastries with Parents, where parents and caregivers came to enjoy pastries and lunch with their children. At the end of May 2024 ten students graduated from Dove.

During the summer, Dove families who enrolled for Fall 2024 met at various parks so the children could play and the parents could get to know one another.

The 2024-25 school year began in September on our regular schedule. Dove was blessed with 16 kids enrolled in Pre I, and 13 enrolled in Pre II. By December the Pre II class had 15 students. It has been a year filled with activities and learning. Both classes went to the Jones Estate for the Fall Field Trip, with many activities, as well as a small pumpkin patch where the kids could choose a pumpkin to take home. With the help of office staff and other MPC members, the kids enjoyed a Halloween celebration, wearing costumes and trick-or-treating. The families donated around 300 lbs. of non-perishable items in November for Neighborhood House. The Christmas program was amazing, with the kids sharing the story of Baby Jesus through song. Their extended families filled the sanctuary and cookie hour afterward, showing love and appreciation for the season. It truly was the highlight of the year once again. Throughout all these activities, the kids learn how to be members of a class environment, along with learning some academic building blocks to help them prepare for elementary school.



The Dove board spent much of the summer and fall reorganizing, with new members joining the team. Melissa Ulum & Kathy McCourt are the co-Presidents, Kristen Young is Treasurer, Kate Eyberg remains as Treasurer Assistant, and Margie Bender is Secretary. The Board spent a good deal of time drafting updated by-laws, assessing employee compensation, and finalizing the budget, for which we are all thankful. We also have a parent representative from each class: Ashley Scotton and Camilla Morrison. As always, Dennis Zerba, along with Clay Morgan 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. God blessed Dove with strong enrollment this year, and we ask for your prayers for it to continue.

Dove's website, [www.dovepreschool.com](http://www.dovepreschool.com) and email, [dovechristianpreschool@gmail.com](mailto:dovechristianpreschool@gmail.com).

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.

### 2024 Accomplishments

Another year of challenges for everyone tasked with maintaining the church facilities and grounds was completed. Thanks to the continuing contributions from the Congregation to the Building Fund and budgeted maintenance funds, the B&G Team was able to accomplish a few projects in 2024.

A few highlights are:

- After much discussion, it was determined the wood stairs outside the main floor kitchen needed to be removed, due to their deteriorating condition and lack of funds to replace. A team of volunteers arrived on "Dumpster Day" and completely dismantled and removed the wood stairs, and put the pieces in the dumpster's onsite for the community event arranged for that day.
- As a result of a mountain of chips arriving near the lower parking lot. A team of volunteers spread the majority of the chips on the bank between the upper and lower parking lots. This will assist in weed control and basically looks nice.
- In preparation for the new door security policy, doorbells were added at key entry points. One at the Choir room, another at the Main Fireside/Sanctuary entry, and one at the Open Door middle door. These will be used for when these doors can't be physically monitored and help prevent anyone sneaking in unobserved.
- Thanks to a crew of volunteers, a fresh load of bark dust was spread along the main building's landscape area.
- During an annual inspection and testing of the fire water supply system, it was discovered that a valve was corroded and needed to be replaced. This task and the testing was completed by an outside contractor.





(continued **Buildings & Grounds**)

- Adding additional handrails to the main stage stairs in the sanctuary.
- After observing and monitoring the condition of the floor in the main Fireside/Fellowship area, a lot of scratches were appearing from table and chair movements. It was decided to strip off the finish in that area, so that it matched the hallway to the restrooms, which didn't have the wax finish and doesn't show any scuffing or scratching.



**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, Dick Eyberg, Gary Cayton, John Prutsman, Dennis Zerba,  
and Clay Morgan (Chair)



## Finance & Administration Ministry Team Report

### Looking Back

This past year has seen substantial change in our approach to serving Christ in our community. Our Session read the book *Sailboat Church* by Joan S. Gray, which talks about letting the Holy Spirit guide your church and its mission. It was a particularly relevant book for the Finance & Administration (F&A) committee, as we began the year knowing we had a significant gap between our pledges and total 2024 budget. At times our faith was tested, but thanks to a strong November, and a particularly positive December, we finished the year in the black! We also did a good job of increasing our total income through non-pledge sources such as building use, and interest on our cash savings. As with many churches across the U.S., our membership numbers dropped from 2023 to 2024. However, we not only survived this transition to becoming a more welcoming church, we see signs of renewal and growth all around us. We look forward to another year with our dynamic leadership team and can't wait to see what 2025 has in store for MPC!

### Actual 2024 Income/Expenses

During the year we brought in \$298,038 in total income. Our expenses were tightly managed and, as a result, we finished the year about 10% below budget. We ended the year with a small net income of \$1,597. We once again finished the year in a strong financial position with \$254,403 on the balance sheet.

### Pledge Report

As of January 19, 2025, we have 41 pledges for the coming year totaling \$231,583. This figure represents approximately 73% of the proposed 2025 budget, which is \$315,000. Many thanks for the generous support you continue to provide.

### 2025 Budget Recommendation

The \$315,000 budget that we prepared for 2025 is similar to the 2024 budget with a few modest changes. Since we have spent around 10% below our budget over the past couple of years, and we have slightly fewer pledges, we have set our budget slightly lower, closer to actual spending in 2024. We have, however, included a cost-of-living increase for MPC staff. A summary of the proposed budget is included on the next page. A detailed budget is available in the office for review.

### Looking Forward

It has been wonderful to continue our worship and fellowship together at MPC this year. We are very grateful for all the volunteers and contributors who help our church thrive. As always, we will keep a watchful eye on our spending, keep looking for ways to better serve our church and community, and keep praying that the Holy Spirit will continue to "fill the sails" of our church.

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

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

# Multnomah Presbyterian Church

## 2025 Annual Budget Summary

		2022		2023		2024		2025 Budget Requested	Change 2024 Budget to 2025 Budget %	Change 2024 Budget to 2025 Budget \$
		Budget	Actual	Budget	Actual	Budget	Actual			
<b>PASTORAL</b>										
1000	Pastoral Expenses	113,866	84,648	125,116	13,300	94,000	94,971	100,166	6.6%	6,166
		113,866	84,648	125,116	13,300	94,000	94,971	100,166	6.6%	6,166
<b>PERSONNEL</b>										
1210	Youth Director	57,901	59,021	62,516	68,086	-	-	0		
1220	Music Director	29,020	29,362	31,346	33,530	34,380	33,380	35,615	3.6%	1,235
1240	Office Manager	35,685	27,844	35,978	31,127	37,381	31,210	34,250	-8.4%	(3,131)
1250	Other Staff	9,100	4,767	7,775	5,339	8,600	3,669	4,230	-50.8%	(4,370)
1290	Taxes	14,810	10,655	14,000	12,043	13,500	12,866	13,905	3.0%	405
		146,516	131,648	151,615	150,125	93,861	81,125	88,000	-6.2%	(5,861)
<b>MISSIONS</b>										
1330	Missions	37,300	34,899	36,050	34,260	29,400	29,051	25,000	-15.0%	(4,400)
		37,300	34,899	36,050	34,260	29,400	29,051	25,000	-15.0%	(4,400)
<b>CHURCH BUILDINGS &amp; PROPERTY</b>										
1410	Church Building	60,570	51,138	61,420	53,162	61,082	51,352	60,797	-0.5%	(285)
1421	Open Door	2,855	1,846	3,060	3,424	3,020	2,469	3,443	14.0%	423
1431	Grounds	2,600	1,554	2,600	2,357	2,000	787	1,450	-27.5%	(550)
		66,025	54,539	67,080	58,943	66,102	54,609	65,690	-0.6%	(412)
<b>OFFICE EXPENSES</b>										
1510	Office	8,800	6,208	8,700	9,993	8,968	8,056	7,684	-14.3%	(1,284)
1530	General Administration	13,408	15,015	14,900	13,849	14,380	14,268	15,380	7.0%	1,000
1540	Computers	5,000	2,043	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
		27,208	23,266	23,600	23,842	23,348	22,324	23,064	-1.2%	(284)
<b>IN-BUDGET MINISTRIES</b>										
1610	CE General	900	623	1,300	425	1,300	771	830	-36.2%	(470)
1620	Youth Programs	2,050	1,436	2,050	1,417	2,050	1,539	1,600	-22.0%	(450)
1630	CE Curriculum	1,810	1,265	1,300	268	1,300	211	300	-76.9%	(1,000)
1640	CE Programs	2,300	1,446	2,400	1,102	2,100	577	-	-100.0%	(2,100)
1650	Outreach	1,000	952	1,300	768	1,300	802	800	-38.5%	(500)
1660	Fellowship	1,600	1,322	2,466	721	2,325	1,384	2,000	-14.0%	(325)
1670	Worship/Music	3,700	3,084	3,700	2,806	3,400	2,408	3,100	-8.8%	(300)
		13,360	10,127	14,516	7,507	13,775	7,691	8,630	-37.4%	(5,145)
<b>ORGANIZATIONS</b>										
1711	Session/Planning	700	0	700	119	400	594	700	75.0%	300
1721	PC(USA) Per Capita	6,669	6,669	6,795	6,794	6,075	6,075	3,750	-38.3%	(2,325)
1731	The Fellowship	250	0	0	0	0	0	0	0.0%	0
		7,619	6,669	7,495	6,913	6,475	6,669	4,450	-31.3%	(2,025)
<b>TOTALS</b>										
1000	PASTORAL	113,866	84,648	125,116	13,300	94,000	94,971	100,166	6.6%	6,166
1200	PERSONNEL	146,516	131,648	151,615	150,125	93,861	81,125	88,000	-6.2%	(5,861)
1300	MISSIONS	37,300	34,899	36,050	34,260	29,400	29,051	25,000	-15.0%	(4,400)
1400	CHURCH BUILDINGS	66,025	54,539	67,080	58,943	66,102	54,609	65,690	-0.6%	(412)
1500	OFFICE EXPENSES	27,208	23,266	23,600	23,842	23,348	22,324	23,064	-1.2%	(284)
1600	IN-BUDGET MINISTRIES	13,360	10,127	14,516	7,507	13,775	7,691	8,630	-37.4%	(5,145)
1700	ORGANIZATIONS	7,619	6,669	7,495	6,913	6,475	6,669	4,450	-31.3%	(2,025)
<b>TOTAL</b>		<b>411,894</b>	<b>345,796</b>	<b>425,472</b>	<b>294,889</b>	<b>326,961</b>	<b>296,441</b>	<b>315,000</b>	<b>-3.7%</b>	<b>(\$11,961)</b>



Presbyterian Church